

DESCRIPTION

CONTROL SYSTEM FOR MOBILE BODY

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a control system
for a mobile robot, such as a bipedal mobile robot and,
more specifically, to a system for controlling a floor
reaction force (external force) acting on the mobile robot
in a case where a portion of the robot, such as a knee, an
10 elbow, or a trunk, other than a distal portion of a leg or
an arm of the robot is brought into contact with the
ground or in a similar case.

Background Art

15 As the technologies for controlling the floor
reaction force acting on the distal portions of the legs
of a legged mobile robot, such as a bipedal mobile robot,
when making the robot travel by causing the distal
portions of its legs to come in contact with or leave a
20 floor, there have been known the technologies disclosed in
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H5-
305585 (Patent Document 1), Japanese Unexamined Patent
Application Publication No. H10-277969 (Patent Document 2)
and Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No.
25 2001-322076 (Patent Document 3) by the present applicant.

 However, these technologies are originally based on
an assumption that the distal portions of the legs are

brought into contact with a floor to make the robot travel,
and therefore, sensors for detecting floor reaction forces
are provided in the distal portions of the legs. Further,
there has been also known a technology in which power
5 sensors are provided in the distal end portions of arms to
control forces acting on the distal portions of the arms
when making a robot having arms perform a certain job.

In these conventional robots, it is basically
assumed that external forces, such as floor reaction
10 forces, act on the distal portions of their legs or arms,
and places, such as knees, other than the distal portions
of the legs or arms are not provided with sensors for
detecting external forces. Hence, it has been impossible
to control external forces (e.g., floor reaction forces)
15 acting on the knees.

For example, in a state wherein a conventional
human-like robot is kneeling, the floor reaction force
acting on the right and left knees are dependent upon
(governed by) the projections and depressions of a floor,
20 and no adjustment of the joint angles of the legs has been
made on the basis of the projections and depressions of
the floor. For this reason, there have been cases where a
projection or a depression causes a portion of the robot
that comes into contact with a floor shakes, resulting in
25 unstable contact condition of the portion coming into
contact. Under this condition, an attempt to make the
robot operate or work has sometimes led to an unstable

posture of the robot.

Furthermore, when, for example, a robot stands up from a kneeling posture, if the actual inclination of a floor is different from the inclination assumed in a
5 desired gait, then there has been a danger in that the robot falls, because the position of the center-of-gravity of the robot is not properly controlled and the robot undesirably tries to stand up with its body posture inclined.

10 Moreover, in a case where a robot operates or works while sitting in a chair, maintaining its stable postures, it is desired that the reaction forces applied from the chair to the buttocks of the robot as well as the floor reaction forces acting on the feet of the legs of the
15 robot can be properly controlled in order to make it possible to restore the posture of the robot to a proper posture when the robot rises from the chair or sits onto the chair.

The present invention has been made with a view of
20 the background described above, and it is an object thereof to provide a control system for a mobile robot that properly controls not only external forces acting on the distal portions of legs and arms of the robot but also external forces acting on portions other than the distal
25 portions of the legs and arms in a state wherein the portions of a mobile robot, such as knees, elbows, the trunk, and buttocks, other than the legs and arms are

subjected to external forces when they come in contact with a floor or an object considered as an extension of the floor, thus making it possible to maintain stable postures of the mobile robot.

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Disclosure of Invention

According to a first invention of a control system for a mobile robot in accordance with the present invention, there is provided a control system for a legged mobile robot comprising a base body, a plurality of link mechanisms that are connected to the base body and that come in contact with externals to move the base body, and a plurality of joints provided between the base body and the distal portions of the link mechanisms to make the distal portions of the link mechanisms movable with respect to the base body, the legged mobile robot being able to be operated to a specific motion posture in which the robot is in contact with an external at a predetermined portion or portions between the distal portion or portions of one or more specific link mechanisms among the plurality of link mechanisms and the base body, the control system comprising:

an external force detecting means for detecting or estimating an external force acting on the predetermined portion in the specific motion posture;

a desired external force determining means for determining a desired external force, which is a desired

value of the external force on the predetermined portion in the specific motion posture; and

a joint displacement controlling means for controlling the displacement of at least a joint existing between the predetermined portion and the base body such that the detected or estimated external force approximates the desired external force.

According to the first invention, the predetermined portion comes in contact with an external in the specific motion posture. This predetermined portion is the portion provided on the specific link mechanism at between the base body and the distal portion of the specific link mechanism, an external force acting on the predetermined portion being detected or estimated by the external force detecting means. Then, the displacement of the joint existing at least between the predetermined portion and the base body is controlled such that the detected or estimated external force approximates a desired external force determined by the desired external force determining means, making it possible to properly control the external force acting on the predetermined portion. As a result, the stability of a posture of the robot can be maintained.

In the first invention, the specific link mechanism is, for example, a leg body (a second invention). In this case, the predetermined portion is an intermediate portion (e.g., a knee) between the distal portion of the leg body and the base body. Hence, if, for example, a human-like

robot is on a knee thereof, then the external force acting on the knee can be controlled. Incidentally, the link mechanisms provided on the robot may include arm bodies rather than being limited to leg bodies. In such a case, the specific link mechanisms may be only leg bodies or arm bodies, or they may include both leg bodies and arm bodies.

Further, in the aforesaid first invention (or the first and the second inventions), the specific link mechanisms, for example, are leg bodies extended from buttocks connected to the base body through the intermediary of joints, and the predetermined portion is the buttocks (a third invention). In this case, when a robot is sitting or the like, the external force acting on the buttocks can be controlled so as to control the posture of the robot (particularly the posture of the base body, such as the body) to a proper stable posture.

Moreover, preferably, the aforesaid first invention (or the first to the third inventions) comprises an actual posture detecting means for detecting the actual posture of a second predetermined portion, such as the base body, of the mobile robot; and a desired motion determining means for determining a desired posture of the second predetermined portion, wherein the desired external force determining means determines the desired external force on the basis of at least the difference between the actual posture and the desired posture of the second predetermined portion (a fourth invention).

According to the fourth invention, the external force acting on the predetermined portion can be controlled so as to restore the actual posture of the second predetermined portion (e.g., the base body) to a predetermined desired posture, thus allowing the stability of a posture of the robot to be enhanced.

Furthermore, preferably, the aforesaid first invention (or the first to the fourth inventions) comprises an actual posture detecting means for detecting the actual posture of a second predetermined portion, such as the base body, of the mobile robot; and a desired motion determining means for determining the desired posture of the second predetermined portion, wherein the joint controlling means comprises a means for determining the manipulated variable of an external force on the basis of the difference between the actual posture and the desired posture of the second predetermined portion, and the displacement of the joint is controlled such that the detected or estimated external force approximates the resultant force of the desired external force and the manipulated variable of the external force (a fifth invention).

According to the fifth invention, the displacement of a joint is controlled such that the external force acting on the predetermined portion approximates a desired external force and also the actual posture of the second predetermined portion (e.g., the base body) approximates a

desired posture, thus making it possible to stabilize a posture of the robot and also to properly control an external force acting on a predetermined portion.

Incidentally, the second predetermined portion in the fourth invention and the fifth invention may be identical to a predetermined portion that comes in contact with an external in the aforesaid specific motion posture.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is an overall external view of a robot in accordance with a first reference example and a second reference example related to the present invention, Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the functional construction of a control system of the first reference example, Figs. 3(a) to (c) and Figs. 4(a) to (c) are diagrams for explaining an operation of the robot (four-legged robot) of the first reference example, Figs. 5(a) to (c) are graphs showing setting examples of weights in the first reference example, and Fig. 5(d) is a graph showing a setting example of a ZMP (desired total floor reaction force central point) in the first reference example. Fig. 6 is a diagram showing the hierarchical structure of nodes in the first reference example, Fig. 7 is a diagram showing a relationship between desired node floor reaction force central points and weights, Fig. 8 is a diagram showing a relationship between desired node floor reaction forces and weights, and Fig. 9 is a flowchart showing main

routine processing of the control system of the first reference example. Fig. 10 to Fig. 14 are diagrams illustrating desired node floor reaction force translational force components, actual node floor reaction force translational force components, actual node floor reaction force moments, compensating total floor reaction force moments, and node compensating floor reaction force moments, respectively, of a robot (four-legged robot) of the first reference example. Fig. 15 and Fig. 16 are diagrams for explaining position corrections based on node compensating angles (compliance operation) in the first reference example, Fig. 17 to Fig. 21 are block diagrams showing the functional constructions of a hierarchical compliance operation determiner, a compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor, a θ 1423 determiner (compensating angle determiner), a θ 14 determiner (compensating angle determiner), and a mechanism deformation compensation amount calculator, respectively, in the first reference example, Fig. 22 is a flowchart showing the processing for determining compensating angles, and Fig. 23 is a diagram for explaining another example of a hierarchical structure related to the robot of the first reference example. Fig. 24 is a diagram for explaining the hierarchical structure of a robot (six-legged robot) of a second reference example, Fig. 25 is a block diagram showing the functional construction of a hierarchical compliance operation

determiner in the second reference example, Fig. 26 to Fig. 28 are diagrams respectively illustrating the translational force components of desired node floor reaction forces, the translational force components of actual node floor reaction forces, and actual node floor reaction force moments of the robot (six-legged robot) of the second reference example, Figs. 29(a) and (b) are diagrams for explaining the technique for setting a node compensating floor reaction force moment in the second reference example, and Fig. 30 and Fig. 31 are diagrams for explaining a position correction based on a node compensating angle (compliance operation) in the second reference example. Fig. 32 and Fig. 33 are block diagrams showing the functions of a θ 145236 determiner (compensating angle determiner) and a θ 145 determiner (compensating angle determiner), respectively, in the second reference example, and Fig. 34 is a diagram for explaining another example of a hierarchical structure related to the robot of the second reference example. Fig. 35 is a block diagram showing the functional construction of a hierarchical compliance operation determiner in a third reference example, Fig. 36 is a flowchart showing main routine processing of a control system in the third reference example, Fig. 37 to Fig. 39 are diagrams for explaining concepts and terms in the third reference example, Fig. 40 is a block diagram showing the function of a floor configuration estimator in the third reference

example, and Fig. 41 is a flowchart showing the processing of a floor height error estimation processing subroutine in Fig. 40. Fig. 42 and Fig. 43 are diagrams for explaining the processing for hierarchical relativization in a four-legged robot and a six-legged robot, respectively. Fig. 44 is a diagram showing examples of setting request modes of nodes related to the estimation of a floor configuration, and Fig. 45 to Fig. 55 are flowcharts showing the processing for estimating a floor configuration. Fig. 56 is a block diagram showing the functions of a floor configuration estimator in a fourth reference example, and Fig. 57 is a block diagram showing the functions of a floor configuration estimator in a fifth reference example. Fig. 58 and Fig. 59 are diagrams showing a state wherein a robot (two-legged mobile robot) in a first embodiment of the present invention is kneeling, Fig. 60 is a diagram showing the construction of a floor reaction force sensor of a knee of the robot in the first embodiment, Fig. 61 is a diagram showing a hierarchical structure of nodes in the first embodiment, and Fig. 62 is a block diagram showing the functional construction of a hierarchical compliance operation determiner in the first embodiment. Figs. 63(a) to (c) are diagrams for explaining a technique for correcting the posture of the body of the robot in the first embodiment, Fig. 64 is a diagram for explaining a technique for correcting the position/posture of the body of the robot in the first

embodiment, and Fig. 65 is a block diagram showing the functions of an inverse kinematics calculator in the first embodiment. Fig. 66 is a block diagram showing the functions of an inverse kinematics calculator in a second embodiment, and Fig. 67 and Fig. 68 are diagrams for explaining a technique for correcting the posture of a robot in the second embodiment. Fig. 69 is a diagram showing the construction of a robot in a third embodiment, and Fig. 70 is a diagram showing a hierarchical structure of nodes in the third embodiment.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

First, major terms to be used in the explanation of the embodiments in the present description will be explained.

In the technology of the composite-compliance control disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969 previously proposed by the present applicant, floor reaction forces are sorted for each leg on the assumption that floor reaction forces are received at the distal portions (feet) of legs of a robot. In comparison therewith, according to the reference examples of the present description, situations are also considered in which floor reaction forces are received at portions other than the distal portions of legs, e.g., a situation in which a human type robot is on its knee or sitting, or has its arm or arms in contact

with the ground. For this reason, a portion of a legged mobile robot that comes in contact with a floor and receives a reaction force in a predetermined operation of the robot is referred to as "the ground contact portion."

5 In this case, "floor" does not simply refers to a floor (or the ground) in a usual sense, but "floor" also includes an object with which the robot comes in contact and which receives a reaction force in its motion, such as a chair (a chair on which the robot sits) fixed to the
10 floor (or the ground). Thus, if, for example, a two-legged mobile robot sits on a chair or the like, then the waist of the robot will correspond to the ground contact portion. In a normal travel of a legged mobile robot (in the walking or the like of the two-legged mobile robot),
15 the distal portion (foot or the like) of each leg will of course correspond to the ground contact portion.

To categorize (discriminate) ground contact portions, even if ground contact portions are distributed such that they are separated at a plurality of locations
20 on the same link (a part corresponding to a single rigid body) (if a plurality of portions separated from each other on the same link is in contact with the ground), that is, even if a plurality of ground contact surfaces are not connected on the same link, these will be put together and
25 defined as one ground contact portion. For instance, if the ground contact portion provided with four spike pins comes in contact with the ground through the intermediary

of the spike pins, then the individual ground contact surfaces of the four spike pins will be put together and regarded as one ground contact portion. However, it is not always required to put the ground contact surfaces together into one.

An n-th ground contact portion is a designation for identifying the ground contact portion which has been categorized (discriminated) according to such a rule and to which an identification number n ($n=1,2,3,\dots$) has been assigned.

A ground contact portion floor reaction force refers to a floor reaction force acting on a ground contact portion, and the floor reaction force acting on an n-th ground contact portion, in particular, is referred to as the n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force. The total floor reaction force is the resultant force of the floor reaction forces acting on all ground contact portions. Further, the floor reaction force central point is the point of action at which the horizontal component of a moment generated by a floor reaction force at that point is zero.

A floor reaction force, such as a ground contact portion floor reaction force or a total floor reaction force, is usually expressed by a set of the point of action of a force and a translational force and moment applied to that point of action. For the same floor reaction force, there are a limitless number of sets of

point of action, translational force and moment for
expressing it. Among them, there is an expression of a
floor reaction force that uses, as the point of action, a
point at which a moment component (the horizontal
5 component of a moment) except a component about a vertical
axis (vertical component) is zero. The point of action in
this expression is referred to as a floor reaction force
central point in the present description. A floor
reaction force central point may be defined as a point at
10 which the floor surface parallel component (the component
parallel to a floor surface) of a moment generated by a
floor reaction force at that point is zero.

In the present description, "floor surface" may
alternatively be a virtual floor surface (a floor surface
15 assumed on a desired gait and it does not necessarily
coincide with an actual floor surface) described in
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H5-
318340 previously proposed by the present applicant.

Supplementally, the floor reaction force central
20 point of a ground contact portion is usually set on the
ground contact surface thereof (the surface in contact
with a floor) if the ground contact portion is in contact
with the ground. Meanwhile, the ground contact portion
floor reaction force while the ground contact portion is
25 moving in the air is always zero, so that a moment
horizontal component of the ground contact portion floor
reaction force will be zero at any point of action. This

means that the floor reaction force central point can be arbitrarily set. However, to smoothly control the operation of a robot, it is preferred that a desired floor reaction force central point moves in continuity. Hence,
5 in the embodiments of the present description, a floor reaction force central point of a ground contact portion floor reaction force is defined as the point of action that moves together with the ground contact portion when the ground contact portion moves in the air.

10 In the embodiments of the present description, in the compliance control operation wherein the position/posture of each ground contact portion are corrected on the basis of at least an actual floor reaction force (a floor reaction force actually acting on
15 a robot), the compliance control operation is not simply performed on each of ground contact portions irrelevantly (independently) from each other. The embodiments of the present description are characterized in that ground contact portion are classified into a tree structure and
20 operations for correcting the positions/postures of ground contact portions are determined on the basis of at least an actual floor reaction force acting on each group that has been classified (the actual floor reaction forces acting on all ground contact portions included in each
25 group or the resultant force thereof). Hereinafter, sorting by the tree structure may be referred to as "hierarchization."

For the desired values of variables generated by a gait generating device of a legged mobile robot in the embodiments of the present description, "desired" will be attached to the beginning of the names of variables. For
5 the values of the variables in an actual legged mobile robot (actually detected values or estimated values, because true values are unknown), "actual" will be attached to the beginning of the names of variables. The above "actual floor reaction force" is an example thereof.

10 The targets of the total floor reaction forces (the resultant force of the actual floor reaction forces acting on all ground contact portions of the robot) in the compliance control (floor reaction force control) to be discussed later will be referred to as desired total floor
15 reaction forces. The point at which the moment horizontal component of a desired total floor reaction force is zero will be referred to as a desired total floor reaction force central point.

The point on a floor surface at which the moment
20 horizontal component of the resultant force of an inertial force generated by a motion of a desired gait of a mobile robot (the motion of each portion of the robot in a desired gait) and the gravity acting on the robot becomes zero will be referred to as a desired ZMP. The motion of
25 a desired gait is determined by the time series of the desired position/posture of each portion of the robot in the desired gait, so that the time series of the desired

position/posture of the portion will be generically referred to as a motion of a desired gait or a desired motion. Supplementally, if these time series can be specified, then desired motions may be described by expressions that are different from the desired motions defined as described above. For example, a set of the time series of the desired displacements of joints of a robot and the time series of the desired position/posture of a particular portion, such as a base body, may be used as a desired motion.

A desired total floor reaction force is usually a total floor reaction force that dynamically balances with the motion patter of a desired gait (the time-series pattern of a desired motion). Hence, a desired total floor reaction force central point usually agrees with a desired ZMP. Thus, in the following explanation, a desired total floor reaction force central point and a desired ZMP will be used without discriminating them in many cases. Exceptionally, however, in the case of controlling a robot explained in, for example, Patent No. 3269852 previously proposed by the present applicant, a desired total floor reaction force central point and a desired ZMP do not necessarily agree with each other. In the following explanation, the term, desired ZMP, will be used in some cases, but there will be some places where the term, desired total floor reaction force central point, should be used to be precise.

It may be assumed that, in a desired gait of a mobile robot, the robot is subject to a reaction force (an external force) other than a floor reaction force from an environment. And, the reaction force (the external force) other than a floor reaction force may be referred to as, for example, a desired object reaction force, and the definition of a desired ZMP described above may be expanded as follows. The resultant force of the inertial force generated by a motion pattern of a desired gait of a robot, the gravity acting on the robot, and a desired object reaction force may be dynamically determined, and if the moment generated at a certain point on a floor surface by the resultant force is zero except for a component about a vertical axis, then the point may be defined anew as a desired ZMP. However, if a desired object reaction force is taken as one form of a floor reaction force, then the definition of a desired ZMP may be the same as the definition previously described.

Based on the above, the reference examples related to the present invention and the embodiments of the present invention will be explained in detail below. It should be noted that, for the convenience of explanation, the reference examples will be explained for a while, and then the embodiments of the present invention will be explained. The reference examples include first through fifth reference examples.

[First Reference Example]

Fig. 1 is an external view of a general multi-legged mobile robot (legged mobile robot) according to first and second reference examples. Fig. 1 shows that the robot 1 has six legs (leg bodies), namely, a first leg #1 to a sixth leg #6; however, it does not have the fifth leg #5 and the sixth leg #6 in the first reference example. This means that, in the first reference example, the robot 1 is a four-legged robot having four legs (leg bodies), the first leg #1 to the fourth leg #4. In Fig. 1, the components of the robot 1 according to the second reference example are shown by parenthesized reference numerals.

As shown in Fig. 1, in the robot 1 (the four-legged robot) according to the first reference example, two legs (the first leg #1 and the third leg #3) are extended from the right side of a body 24, which is the base body of the robot 1, such that they are arranged side by side in the longitudinal direction, and in the same manner, two legs (the second leg #2 and the fourth leg #4) are extended from the left side of the body 24 such that they are arranged side by side in the longitudinal direction. A discoid ground contact portion 10 is attached to the distal portion of each of the legs #1 to #4 through the intermediary of a spherical joint 12, which is a free joint. Hereinafter, when the ground contact portions 10 need to be discriminated among the legs #1 to #4, they

will be referred to as the first ground contact portion,
the second ground contact portion, the third ground
contact portion, and the fourth ground contact portion.

Each ground contact portion 10 is engaged with the
5 spherical joint 12 such that its central point agrees with
the central point of the spherical joint 12 and that a
floor reaction force moment (the moment component of a
floor reaction force) will not act on the central point of
the ground contact portion 10 (strictly speaking, the
10 spherical joint 12). This means that the floor reaction
force moment (actual floor reaction force moment) at the
central point of the ground contact portion 10 will be
always zero.

In the robot 1 shown in the figure, each of the
15 legs #1 to #4 is provided with joints 14 and 15 at a
portion adjacent to the body 24 of the robot 1 and at an
intermediate portion, respectively, and a compliance
mechanism 42 composed of an elastic member, such as a
spring, and a six-axis force sensor 34 serving as a floor
20 reaction force detecting means (external force detecting
means) for detecting an actual floor reaction force acting
on the ground contact portion 10 are provided in the
vicinity of the distal portion of each of the legs #1 to
#4 (a portion of the link connecting the spherical joint
12 and the joint 14, the portion being adjacent to the
25 spherical joint 12). In the example shown in the figure,
the joints 14 can be rotated about two axes, while the

joints 15 can be rotated about one axis. The bottom surfaces of the ground contact portions may be provided with elastic members made of sponge, rubber or the like serving as compliance mechanisms.

5 The displacement operation (the rotational operation about each axis) of each of the joints 14 and 15 is performed by an actuator, such as an electric motor, which is not shown. And, an actual joint displacement, which is the actual displacement amount (the angle of
10 rotation about each axis), of each of the joints 14 and 15 is detected by a sensor, such as a rotary encoder, which is not shown. The six-axis force sensor 34 is capable of detecting the translational forces in the directions of three axes and the moments about three axes; however, in
15 the robot 1 in the first reference example, no actual floor reaction force moment acts on the central points of the ground contact portions 10, as described above. Hence, three-axis force sensors that detect the translational forces in the directions of three axes or force sensors
20 that detect only the vertical components of the translational forces of actual floor reaction forces may be used in place of the six-axis force sensors 34.

 The body 24 incorporates a control system 50 constructed of an electronic circuit unit that includes a
25 microcomputer, an actuator drive circuit, etc., a posture sensor 36 for detecting the postures of the body 24, and a power source not shown (a secondary battery, a capacitor,

or the like). The posture sensor 36 is constructed of, for example, an acceleration sensor and a gyro sensor. In the present description, "posture" generally means a spatial orientation (however, "the posture" of the entire robot means an instantaneous value of a motion of the robot). Further, in the present reference example, the posture sensor 36 detects the posture inclinations (inclination angles) of the postures of the body 24 in, for example, the pitch directions and roll directions in relation to the vertical direction. In other words, the posture sensor 36 functions as an actual posture inclination detecting means for detecting actual posture inclinations of the body 24.

If the postures (rotational angles) of the body 24 of the robot 1 also in the yaw direction are to be controlled, then the rotational angles of the body 24 in the yaw direction (in other words, the postures of the body 24 in the directions of three axes) may be also detected by the posture sensor 36.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the functional construction and operations of the control system 50. The actual robot 1 shown in Fig. 2 is the robot 1 shown in Fig. 1 from which the control system 50, the posture sensor 36, and the six-axis force sensor 34 have been removed. Here, a predetermined coordinate system (XYZ coordinate system) fixed to a floor, in which the approximately front direction of the robot 1 is defined as X axis,

approximately left side direction thereof is defined as Y axis, and the upward direction thereof is defined as Z axis, as shown in Fig. 1, is referred to as "a supporting leg coordinate system" or "a global coordinate system."

5 Hereinafter, positions, postures, translational forces and moments will be expressed in terms of the sets of coordinate components of the supporting leg coordinate system (the global coordinate system) unless otherwise specified. The origin of the supporting leg coordinate
10 system (global coordinate system) does not have to be steadily fixed at a single point; the position of the origin with respect to a floor may be changed while the robot 1 is traveling. For example, the position of the origin of the supporting leg coordinate system (the global
15 coordinate system) may be changed each time a predetermined leg of the robot 1 lands.

As shown in Fig. 2, the control system 50 is provided with a gait generating device 100, a desired floor reaction force distributor 102, a robot geometric
20 model (inverse kinematics calculator) 110, a hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114, a displacement controller 112, an actual floor reaction force detector 108, a posture error calculator 103, and a posture stabilization control calculator 104 as its functional
25 components (functional means). The following will explain the overviews of the components of the control system 50.

The gait generating device 100 has a function as a

desired gait determining means or a desired motion
determining means, and generates (determines) and outputs
a desired gait that specifies an operation of the robot 1.
In the present reference example, a desired gait is formed
5 of the trajectory of a desired motion of the robot (the
time series of the desired position/posture of each
portion of the robot) and the trajectory of a desired
floor reaction force (the time series of a set of the
desired position of the action point of a reaction force
10 received by the robot from a floor and the desired values
of a translational force and moment applied to the action
point). In the present description, "trajectory" means a
time-series pattern (temporal change pattern).

The trajectory of a desired motion output by the
15 gait generating device 100 is constructed of a desired
ground contact portion trajectory, which is the trajectory
of the desired values of the position and the posture of
each ground contact portion 10 of the robot 1, and a
desired body position/posture trajectory, which is the
20 trajectory of the desired values of the position and the
posture of the body 24 of the robot 1. A gait generating
device in a robot equipped with joints related to arms or
the head, as in the first reference example to be
discussed later, determines and outputs the desired
25 position/posture trajectories of the arms or the head as
constituents of desired motions.

Further, in the present reference example, the

trajectory of a desired floor reaction force output by the
gait generating device 100 is formed of a desired total
floor reaction force central point trajectory, which is
the trajectory of a desired position of the total floor
reaction force central point of the robot 1, and a desired
total floor reaction force trajectory, which is the
trajectory of a desired value of a total floor reaction
force that uses the above desired total floor reaction
force central point as an action point. In the present
reference example, a desired total floor reaction force
central point trajectory is regarded as identical to a
desired ZMP trajectory, which is the trajectory of a
desired position of ZMP.

The position of each ground contact portion 10 is
the position of a certain representative point of the
ground contact portion 10, and the representative point is,
for example, the projected point obtained by projecting,
in the vertical direction, the central point of each
ground contact portion 10 (the central point of the
spherical joint 12) onto the ground contact surface
(bottom surface) of the ground contact portion 10, or the
central point of the ground contact portion 10 (the
central point of the spherical joint 12). Hereinafter,
the position of the representative point of each ground
contact portion 10 will be referred to simply as the
ground contact portion position. The trajectory of a
desired value of the ground contact portion position (a

desired ground contact portion position trajectory) is included in the aforesaid desired ground contact portion trajectory determined by the gait generating device 100.

Here, in the robot 1 of the present reference
5 example, the ground contact portions 10 are engaged with the spherical joints 12, which are free joints, so that the postures of the ground contact portions 10 cannot be controlled. Therefore, in the present reference example, the gait generating device 100 does not actually generate
10 the trajectories of desired postures of the ground contact portions 10 (does not have to generate them). In the present reference example, therefore, the aforesaid desired ground contact portion trajectory means the same as a desired ground contact portion position trajectory.

15 However, if the ground contact portions are attached to the distal portions of the legs such that their postures can be controlled (if the ground contact portions are attached to the distal portions of the legs through joints that can be operated by actuators), as in
20 the robot of the first embodiment to be discussed later, then the trajectories of desired postures of the ground contact portions should be included in the aforesaid desired ground contact portion trajectories. In the present description, the term "ground contact portion
25 position/posture" will be frequently used to generally consider the aforesaid case, the term substantially meaning "ground contact portion position" in the present

reference example.

Referring to Fig. 3(a) to Fig. 3(c) and Fig. 4(a) to Fig. 4(c), a desired ground contact portion trajectory (a desired ground contact portion position trajectory) and a desired total floor reaction force central point trajectory will be explained more specifically. In the first reference example, a travel of the robot 1 is accomplished by carrying out the motions of the legs #1 to #4 by causing a pair of legs, which are to be free legs, to leave a floor and move in the air and then land at a desired position by repeating, in order, a period during which the pair of the first leg #1 and the fourth leg #4 out of the legs #1 to #4 is a pair of supporting legs, while the pair of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3 is a pair of free legs, a period during which all legs #1 to #4 are supporting legs, and a period during which the pair of the first leg #1 and the fourth leg #4 is a pair of free legs, while the pair of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3 is a pair of supporting legs. A supporting leg is a leg that is in contact with the ground to support the self-weight of the robot 1 (a leg to be subject to a floor reaction force that is not zero), and a free leg is a non-supporting leg.

Fig. 3(a) to Fig. 3(c) and Fig. 4(a) to Fig. 4(c) show the desired ground contact portion positions (more specifically, the positions on a horizontal plane (XY plane)) of the distal ends of the legs #1 to #4 during the

aforesaid travel of the robot 1 in time series in sequence (in the sequence of time t_1 to t_6). The triangles corresponding to reference characters Q_1 to Q_4 in these figures indicate the desired ground contact portion positions of the first to the fourth ground contact portions 10, respectively (the positions of the aforesaid representative points of the first to the fourth ground contact portions 10 on a horizontal plane (XY plane)).

Supplementally, to be precise, the triangles with the reference characters Q_1 to Q_4 in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 indicate the positions of desired node floor reaction force central points (desired ground contact portion floor reaction force central points) to be discussed later, which are related to the ground contact portions 10. In the present reference example, however, the representative points of the ground contact portions 10 are set as described above, so that the desired ground contact portion positions (the desired positions of the representative points) of the first to the fourth ground contact portions 10 agree with the positions of the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$), which will be discussed later, or have a certain positional relationship with the positions of the respective desired node floor reaction force central points Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) (the positions on the horizontal plane (XY plane) agree). For this reason, the triangles corresponding to the reference characters Q_1 , Q_2 , Q_3 and

Q4 in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 denote the desired node floor reaction force central points, which will be discussed later, of the first to the fourth ground contact portions 10, respectively, and also denote the positions of the first to the fourth ground contact portions 10, respectively.

Fig. 3(a) shows the desired ground contact portion positions of the ground contact portions 10 at the moment (time t_1) when the pair of the first leg #1 and the fourth leg #4 as free legs are landed, the pair of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3 being supporting legs, Fig. 3(b) shows the desired ground contact portion positions at time t_2 in a state wherein all the legs #1 to #4 are supporting legs, and Fig. 3(c) shows the desired ground contact portion positions at time t_3 immediately before the pair of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3 as free legs is separated from a floor (lifted into the air), the pair of the first leg #1 and the fourth leg #4 being supporting legs. Further, Fig. 4(a) shows the desired ground contact portion positions at time t_4 in a state wherein the pair of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3 as free legs is lifted into the air, the pair of the first leg #1 and the fourth leg #4 being supporting legs, Fig. 4(b) shows the desired ground contact portion positions at the moment (time t_5) when the pair of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3 as free legs are landed, the pair of the first leg #1 and the fourth leg #4 being supporting legs, and Fig.

4(c) shows the desired ground contact portion positions at time t_6 immediately before the pair of the first leg #1 and the fourth leg #4 as free legs is separated from a floor, the pair of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3 being supporting legs. Incidentally, in Fig. 4(a), the desired ground contact portion positions of the second leg #2 and the third leg #3, which are free legs, are indicated by dashed-line triangles. Supplementally, the trajectory of the positions of the ground contact portions of free legs in the vertical direction (the Z-axis direction) are determined such that they rise from a floor surface to a predetermined height and then lower to land again.

Points P in these Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 indicate desired total floor reaction force central points (desired ZMPs). The desired total floor reaction force central point trajectories are determined such that they continuously move while existing in a range in which ZMPs may exist (a region on a floor surface corresponding to a so-called supporting polygon) at positions not excessively close to the boundaries of the range (e.g., at an approximately central position of the range wherein a ZMP may exist). In the first reference example, when two legs #1 and #4 or #2 and #3 are supporting legs (refer to Figs. 3(a) and (c) and Figs. 4(a) to (c)), a desired total floor reaction force central point is set on a segment connecting the representative points of the ground contact

portions 10 and 10 of those legs such that it is not excessively close to an end point of the segment. When all legs #1 to #4 are supporting legs (refer to Fig. 3(b)), a desired total floor reaction force central point is set within a polygon having the representative points of all ground contact portions 10 as its apex angles such that it is not excessively close to a boundary of the polygon. Fig. 5(d) is a graph illustrating a trajectory of a component ZMPx in the X-axis direction (in the direction in which the robot 1 advances) of the position of the desired total floor reaction force central point (desired ZMP) determined as described above. Figs. 5(a) to (c) are graphs illustrating setting examples of weights, which will be discussed later.

Further, a desired body position/posture trajectory determined by the gait generating device 100 is determined using at least a dynamic model or the like of the robot 1 such that the horizontal component of a moment generated about a desired ZMP by the resultant force of the inertial force generated by a desired motion of the robot 1 and the gravity acting on the robot 1 becomes zero. Incidentally, "the body position" is the position of a certain representative point of the body 24.

A desired total floor reaction force determined by the gait generating device 100 is constructed of the desired values of the translational force and the moment acting on a desired total floor reaction force central

point, and it is determined such that it balances with the resultant force of the inertial force generated by a desired motion of the robot 1 and the gravity acting on the robot 1 at a desired total floor reaction force central point in the present reference example. The moment horizontal component of the desired total floor reaction force about the desired total floor reaction force central point (desired ZMP) is zero. Supplementally, it is not necessary to determine all components of the translational force and the moment acting on the desired total floor reaction force central point as desired values. For instance, if the posture or the floor reaction force of the robot 1 about the vertical axis is not controlled, then it is not necessary to determine the component of the moment of the desired total floor reaction force about the vertical axis (the component in the Z-axis direction).

The desired ground contact portion trajectory determined by the gait generating device 100 (the desired ground contact portion position trajectory) is corrected by a hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114, which will be discussed later.

The desired floor reaction force distributor 102 groups (that is, hierarchizes) the first to the fourth ground contact portions 10 of the robot 1 into a tree structure, and associates the nodes of the tree structure with each of the hierarchized groups. Hence, in the following explanation, the nodes may be expressed by

replacing them by the groups. Each node is a group constructed of one or more ground contact portions 10.

In the first reference example, the ground contact portions 10 are hierarchized, as shown in Fig. 6. More specifically, the n-th ground contact portion 10 (n=1,2,3,4) is associated with the n-th node, the node having a first node and a fourth node as child nodes is defined as a 14th node, the node having a second node and a third node as child nodes is defined as a 23rd node, and the node having the 14th node and the 23rd node as child nodes is defined as the 1423rd node. Thus, the first to the fourth nodes are nodes that are constructed of the first, the second, the third, and the fourth ground contact portions 10, respectively, the 14th node is a node constructed of the first ground contact portion 10 and the fourth ground contact portion 10, the 23rd node is a node constructed of the second ground contact portion 10 and the third ground contact portion 10, and the 1423rd node is the node constructed of all the ground contact portions 10.

According to general designations in a tree structure, a node having no child node is referred to as a leaf node, and a node having no parent node is referred to as a root node. Thus, the n-th node (n=1,2,3,4) is a leaf node, while the 1423rd node is a root node. In the present description, to identify nodes, leaf nodes will be assigned the same numbers (1,2,3,...) as those of the

ground contact portions (or legs) associated therewith,
while nodes other than the leaf nodes will be assigned
with numbers that are greater than those of the leaf nodes.
Further, the nodes other than the leaf nodes and the root
5 node will be referred to as intermediate nodes. In the
first reference example, the intermediate nodes are the
14th node and the 23rd node.

Input to the desired floor reaction force
distributor 102 are a desired total floor reaction force
10 central point trajectory, a desired total floor reaction
force trajectory, and a desired ground contact portion
trajectory out of a desired gait determined by the gait
generating device 100. The gait parameters (the estimated
landing position, an estimated landing time, etc. of the
15 ground contact portion 10 of a free leg of the robot 1)
used by the gait generating device 100 to determine the
desired gait may be also input to the desired floor
reaction force distributor 102. Then, on the basis of
these inputs, the desired floor reaction force distributor
20 102 determines desired node floor reaction force central
points (desired n-th node floor reaction force central
points) Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$), which are the desired
positions of the floor reaction force central points of
the nodes hierarchized as described above, and weights W_n
25 ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) of the nodes except the root node. Each
weight W_n will be a nonnegative value of 1 or less.

The technique for determining desired node floor

reaction force central points Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) and the weights W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) will be explained in detail below with reference mainly to Fig. 3(b), Fig. 5, and Fig. 7. Fig. 3(b) shows a relationship between Q_n and W_n in a state illustrated in the figure, Figs. 5(a) to (c) show setting examples of W_n , and Fig. 7 shows a relationship between weights and desired node floor reaction force central points.

The desired node floor reaction force central point of the 1423rd node, which is the root node, (the desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point) Q_{1423} is determined to be identical to the desired total floor reaction force central point (point P in Fig. 3 and Fig 4) ($P=Q_{1423}$). Accordingly, in the following explanation, the same reference character P as that of a desired total floor reaction force central point will be frequently used as the mark denoting the desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point.

Further, a weight W_{1423} of the root node is set to "1" for the sake of convenience in order to maintain the uniformity of expressions.

In the present reference example, the desired floor reaction force central point of an n-th ground contact portion 10 ($n=1,2,3,4$) (also referred to as a desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point) is always set to the central point of an n-th ground contact portion 10 (the central point of the spherical

joint 12). Further, the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) of a leaf node associated with the n -th ground contact portion 10 is determined to be identical to the desired floor reaction force central point of the n -th ground contact portion 10. Hence, the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) is also always set to the central point of the n -th ground contact portion 10 (the position of this point is uniquely determined from a desired ground contact portion position of the n -th ground contact portion 10). The position of the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) of the leaf node determined as described above is uniquely determined from the desired ground contact portion position of the n -th ground contact portion 10. In other words, the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) of a leaf node defines the desired position of the n -th ground contact portion 10. In the following explanation, the desired node floor reaction force central point of a leaf node may be referred to as a desired ground contact portion floor reaction force central point in some cases. Each desired ground contact portion trajectory is set such that it continuously changes, so that Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) will also continuously change.

Supplementally, in the present reference example, the desired floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) of an n -th leaf node (an n -th ground contact

portion 10) has been set to the central point of the n-th ground contact portion 10; however, in a robot that allows the postures of ground contact portions to be controlled, the desired floor reaction force central point of each leaf node (each ground contact portion) may be set, for example, within the ground contact surface of the ground contact portion defined by the desired position/posture of the ground contact portion associated with the leaf node (the surface that comes in contact with a floor surface assumed in a desired gait).

Hereinafter, in general, a segment that connects arbitrary two points A and B or the length thereof will be denoted as AB. In addition, an operator "*" means multiplication for a pair of scalar and scalar or a pair of scalar and vector, while it means an outer product (vector product) for a pair of vector and vector.

The weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) of each node except the root node and desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{14} and Q_{23} of the intermediate nodes are determined such that a desired 14th node floor reaction force central point Q_{14} will be the internally dividing point of a segment Q_1Q_4 that satisfies a relational expression, $Q_1Q_{14}:Q_{14}Q_4=W_4:W_1=(1-W_1):W_1$, a desired 23rd node floor reaction force central point Q_{23} will be the internally dividing point of a segment Q_2Q_3 that satisfies a relational expression, $Q_2Q_{23}:Q_{23}Q_3=W_3:W_2=(1-W_2):W_2$, and a desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point P

(= desired total floor reaction force central point) will be the internally dividing point of a segment $Q_{14}Q_{23}$ that satisfies $Q_{14}P:PQ_{23}=W_{23}:W_{14}=(1-W_{14}):W_{14}$.

In other words, Q_{14} , Q_{23} and W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) are determined to satisfy at least the following expressions 1, 2 and 3. Incidentally, Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) in these expressions 1 to 3 means the position (positional vector) of the point.

10	$Q_{14}=Q_1*W_1+Q_4*W_4$,	$W_1+W_4=1$... Expression 1
	$Q_{23}=Q_2*W_2+Q_3*W_3$,	$W_2+W_3=1$... Expression 2
	$P=Q_{14}*W_{14}+Q_{23}*W_{23}$,	$W_{14}+W_{23}=1$... Expression 3

W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) takes a nonnegative value of 1 or less, so that the coefficients (weights) of Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) in the right sides of the above expressions 1, 2 and 3 will be all nonnegative values.

The above expressions 1 to 3 mean that the position of a desired node floor reaction force central point of each node having child nodes (that is, each node that is not a leaf node) is set to a weighted average position of the position of the desired node floor reaction force central points of the child nodes of the node by using a predetermined nonnegative weight. In other words, as shown in Fig. 3(b) and Fig. 7 mentioned above, the desired floor node reaction force central point Q_n ($n=14,23,1423$) of each node having child nodes is set at the internally

dividing point of the desired node floor reaction force central points of all the child nodes of the node. Fig. 7 is a diagram showing a relationship between the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_n

($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$) of nodes and the weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$). Incidentally, L_{23} , L_{14} and L_{1423} in Fig. 3(b) denote the lengths of segments Q_2Q_3 , Q_1Q_4 and $Q_{23}Q_{14}$, respectively.

Supplementally, Q_1 to Q_4 and $P (=Q_{1423})$ are determined as described above, so that once W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) is determined, Q_{14} and Q_{23} that satisfy expressions 1 to 3 are uniquely determined. In other words, if Q_{14} and Q_{23} are determined, then W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) satisfying expressions 1 to 3 will be uniquely determined. Accordingly, the weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) may be determined and then the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{14} and Q_{23} of intermediate nodes according to the above expressions 1 to 3 may be determined, or the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{14} and Q_{23} of the intermediate node may be determined and then the weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) may be determined according to the above expressions 1 to 3. Either of the aforesaid ways may be used.

The desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{14} and Q_{23} of the intermediate nodes move as the ground contact portions 10 move, as shown in time series in Fig. 3(a) to Fig. 3(c) and Fig. 4(a) to Fig. 4(c).

Weights W_{14} ($=1-W_{23}$), W_1 ($=1-W_4$) and W_3 ($=1-W_2$) at this time are determined such that they continuously change, as shown in, for example, the graphs of Figs. 5(a) to (c), respectively. The trajectory of Q_n and the weight W_n of the n -th node ($n=1,2,3,4$) are set such that they continuously change, so that the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{14} and Q_{23} are also set such that they continuously move. This means that all desired node floor reaction force central points (desired n -th node floor reaction force central points ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$)) are set such that they continuously move.

The desired floor reaction force distributor 102 outputs the desired node floor reaction force central point of each node determined as described above. The desired floor reaction force central point of the root node is the same as the desired total floor reaction force central point determined by the gait generating device 100, so that it does not have to be output from the desired floor reaction force distributor 102.

The desired floor reaction force distributor 102 determines and outputs a desired node floor reaction force, which is the desired value of the floor reaction force acting on the desired floor reaction force central point of each node. The desired node floor reaction force that is output includes at least a desired node floor reaction force (a desired n -th node floor reaction force) acting on

a desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n of an n -th node ($n=1,2,3,4$), which is a leaf node, that is, the desired floor reaction force of each ground contact portion 10. This desired node floor reaction force is
5 necessary primarily to compensate for the flexures of the compliance mechanisms 42 or the like (refer to Fig. 1) of the legs #1 to #4 (more specifically, compensation for the positional displacement of the ground contact portions 10 caused by the flexures of the compliance mechanisms 42 and
10 the link mechanisms of the legs), the compensation being carried out by the processing of a hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114, which will be discussed later. Supplementally, if the robot 1 is provided with compliance mechanisms in addition to those on the distal portions of
15 the legs #1 to #4, then preferably, a desired 14th node floor reaction force and a desired 23rd node floor reaction force (the desired node floor reaction forces of intermediate nodes) are also determined and output in order to determine the deformations of the compliance
20 mechanisms.

Generally, a desired floor reaction force (a desired node floor reaction force) acting on a desired node floor reaction force central point of each node may be determined from a desired total floor reaction force
25 and the weight of each node. Specifically, the desired floor reaction force of any one node may be determined by multiplying the product of the weight of the node and the

weight of all ancestor nodes of the node by a desired total floor reaction force. More specifically, a desired n-th node floor reaction force is calculated according to the following expression 4a (or expression 4b).

5

Desired n-th node floor reaction force

= Weight of the n-th node

* Product of the weights of all ancestor nodes of the n-th node

10

* Desired total floor reaction force ... Expression 4a

Desired n-th node floor reaction force

= Weight of the n-th node

* Product of the weight of all ancestor nodes (excluding the root node) of the n-th node

15

* Desired total floor reaction force ... Expression 4b

Alternatively, desired node floor reaction forces are determined such that the desired floor reaction force of an arbitrary n-th node that is not a leaf node agrees with the sum (resultant force) of the desired floor reaction forces of all child nodes of the n-th node and the desired floor reaction force of the root node agrees with a desired total floor reaction force. This relationship is shown in Fig. 8.

20

25

More specifically, if a desired n-th node floor reaction force, which is the desired floor reaction force of an n-th node, is denoted by F_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$)

and a desired total floor reaction force is denoted by $F_{totalref}$, then F_n is determined from $F_{totalref}$ and the weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) according to the expressions shown in Fig. 8. The expressions in Fig. 8 are equivalent to the above expression 4a or 4b.

Determining the desired floor reaction force central point of each node (a desired node floor reaction force central point) and the desired floor reaction force of each node (a desired node floor reaction force) as described above is to determine the desired floor reaction force central point and the desired floor reaction force of each node such that the horizontal component of the moment generated about a desired n -th node floor reaction force central point by the resultant force of the desired floor reaction forces of all child nodes of an n -th node becomes zero. Accordingly, the moment horizontal component of a desired node floor reaction force is zero for any nodes.

A set of each desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$), each weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) and each desired node floor reaction force F_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) is determined such that the desired floor reaction force of the ground contact portion not in contact with the ground (in a no-contact-with-ground state) (the desired node floor reaction force of a leaf node associated with the ground contact portion not in contact with the ground) is zero. Hence, in the

first reference example, the weight W_{14} is set to zero ($W_{23}=1$) during a period in which the first ground contact portion 10 and the fourth ground contact portion 10 are free legs and off a floor (the ground contact portions 10 of the free legs are moving in the air), while the weight W_{23} is set to zero ($W_{14}=1$) during a period in which the second ground contact portion 10 and the third ground contact portion 10 are free legs and off a floor, as shown in Fig. 5(a). Thus, the weight of an intermediate node having child nodes is set to zero during a period in which none of the ground contact portions belonging as leaf nodes to the intermediate node are in contact with the ground. In other words, the weight of an intermediate node is not set to zero during a period in which any one of the ground contact portions belonging to the intermediate node is in contact with the ground (strictly speaking, a period during which a non-zero floor reaction force is acting on any one of the ground contact portions).

Supplementally, the first reference example does not have a period during which only one of the first ground contact portion 10 and the fourth ground contact portion 10 belonging to the intermediate node Q_{14} is placed in a no-contact-with-ground state; therefore, the weights W_1 and W_4 corresponding to these ground contact portions 10 and 10 do not have any periods during which they become 0 or 1. If, however, a desired ground contact portion trajectory is determined so as to include a period

during which only one of the first ground contact portion 10 and the fourth ground contact portion 10 will be placed in the no-contact-with-ground state, then the weight associated with the ground contact portion 10 that will be placed in the no-contact-with-ground state during the period may be set to 0, and the weight associated with the ground contact portion 10 to be in contact with the ground may be set to 1. In this case, the weight of the intermediate node Q14 during that period will be set to a non-zero value. The same applies to the weights associated with the intermediate node Q23 and the second ground contact portion 10 and the third ground contact portion 10, which are leaf nodes belonging thereto. Generally speaking, the weight of a node having child nodes is set to a non-zero value if any one of the ground contact portions belonging to the node is in contact with the ground, while it is set to zero if all of the ground contact portions belonging to the node are in no-contact-with the ground.

The desired node floor reaction forces determined as described above continuously change, making them suited for achieving a movement (walking) of the robot 1 with less impact.

As described above, according to the first reference example, each desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$), each weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) and each desired each floor reaction

force F_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$) are determined by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102 such that they satisfy the following conditions A) to G).

A) The desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) of each leaf node agrees with the central point of the ground contact portion 10 corresponding to the leaf node. More generally, Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) is determined according to a desired gait (a desired motion, such as a desired ground contact portion trajectory).

Supplementally, for example, the desired floor reaction force central point of each ground contact portion 10 may be determined by the gait generating device 100, and in this case, the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) may be determined on the basis of the desired floor reaction force determined by the gait generating device 100.

B) The desired node floor reaction force central point of the root node agrees with a desired total floor reaction force central point P.

C) The desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) and the weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) of each node excluding the root node satisfy the relational expressions of the above expressions 1 to 3. In other words, the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n of an arbitrary n -th node ($n=14,23,1423$) having child nodes will be a weighted average point of the desired node floor reaction force central points of the child nodes of

the n -th node.

D) The desired node floor reaction force F_n of an arbitrary n -th node ($n=14,23,1423$) having child nodes agrees with the sum (resultant force) of the desired node floor reaction forces of all child nodes of the n -th node, and the desired node floor reaction force F_{1423} of the root node (the 1423rd node) agrees with the desired total floor reaction force $F_{totalref}$. In other words, the desired floor reaction force F_n and the weight W_n of the n -th node ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$) satisfy the relational expressions in Fig. 8.

E) The desired node floor reaction force of a leaf node associated with the ground contact portion 10 not in contact with the ground is zero.

F) Q_n , W_n , and F_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$) continuously change.

G) The weight of a leaf node corresponding to the ground contact portion 10 in a no-contact-with-ground state or the weight of any one of the ancestor nodes of the leaf node is zero.

Incidentally, a desired node floor reaction force may be determined on the basis of each desired node floor reaction force central point in place of determining it on the basis of a weight as described above. More specifically, each desired node floor reaction force central point may be determined such that the aforesaid conditions A) to C) are satisfied, then each weight may be

determined on the basis of the desired node floor reaction force central point and the aforesaid expressions 1 to 3, and then the desired node floor reaction force may be determined according to the aforesaid expression 4 by using the determined weight.

Returning to the explanation of Fig. 2, the posture error calculator 103 calculates the error of an actual body posture with respect to a desired body posture and outputs the calculated error to the robot 1. In the present reference example, the posture error calculator 103 receives an inclination angle of the body 24 relative to the vertical direction detected by the posture sensor 36 (hereinafter referred to as the actual body posture inclination) and a desired body position/posture determined by the gait generating device 100 (specifically, the inclination angle in a desired body posture relative to the vertical direction; hereinafter referred to as the desired body posture inclination), and then calculates an error θ_{berr} between them (Actual body posture inclination - Desired body posture inclination; hereinafter referred to as the body posture inclination error θ_{berr}). The calculated θ_{berr} is composed of a component about the X axis (the component in the roll direction) θ_{berrx} and a component about the Y axis (the component in the pitch direction) θ_{berry} . If a desired body posture inclination is, for example, steadily zero, then θ_{berr} =actual body posture inclination, so that a detected value (actual body

posture inclination) of a posture sensor 36 may be directly output as the body posture inclination error θ_{berr} .

Generally speaking, the posture stabilization control calculator 104 calculates a compensating total floor reaction force, which is a compensation amount of a total floor reaction force (the correction amount of a desired total floor reaction force) for stabilizing the posture of the robot 1 according to the state of the robot 1 that is detected or estimated on the basis of the information of a sensor provided in the robot 1, such as the aforesaid body posture inclination error.

To stabilize the posture of the robot 1 in the long term, a translational force and a moment necessary to restore the actual position/posture of a predetermined portion, such as the body 24, of the robot 1 to desired position/posture are determined, and these have to be additionally generated, the desired total floor reaction force central point (desired ZMP) being the point of action. The additional translational force and moment are referred to as a compensating total floor reaction force. The moment component of a compensating total floor reaction force is referred to as a "compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} " (specifically, a compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} about a desired total floor reaction force central point (desired ZMP)).

In the present reference example, the posture stabilization control calculator 104 calculates the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} so as to restore (bring close) an actual body posture inclination to a desired body posture inclination. Hence, the body posture inclination errors θ_{berr} (θ_{berrx} , θ_{berry}) determined by the posture error calculator 103 are input to the posture stabilization control calculator 104.

The posture stabilization control calculator 104 calculates the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} on the basis of the input body posture inclination error θ_{berr} . The calculated M_{dmd} is composed of a component about the X axis M_{dmdx} and a component about the Y axis M_{dmdy} .

Specifically, M_{dmdx} and M_{dmdy} are determined by, for example, the feedback control law (PD control law here) of expressions 5 and 6 given below. More specifically, M_{dmdx} and M_{dmdy} are determined such that the body posture inclination errors θ_{berrx} and θ_{berry} approximate zero.

$$M_{dmdx} = -K_{thx} \cdot \theta_{berrx} - K_{wx} \cdot (d\theta_{berrx}/dt) \quad \dots \text{Expression 5}$$

$$M_{dmdy} = -K_{thy} \cdot \theta_{berry} - K_{wy} \cdot (d\theta_{berry}/dt) \quad \dots \text{Expression 6}$$

where K_{thx} , K_{thy} , K_{wx} and K_{wy} denote predetermined gains. Further, $(d\theta_{berrx}/dt)$ and $(d\theta_{berry}/dt)$ denote the time differential values of the body posture inclination errors

θ_{berrx} and θ_{berry} , respectively.

In the present reference example, a component of the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} about the Z axis (the component in the yaw direction) M_{dmdz} is not used, so that M_{dmdz} is not determined; however, M_{dmdz} may be determined to prevent the robot 1 from spinning (slippage about the vertical axis). A method for determining M_{dmdz} is explained in detail in Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-185613 or Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-185930 previously proposed by the present applicant. Moreover, for example, to restore the position of an actual center-of-gravity of the robot 1 to the position of the center-of-gravity in a desired gait, the translational force of a compensating total floor reaction force can be determined on the basis of a positional error of the center-of-gravity.

The floor reaction force detector 108 detects the actual floor reaction forces, which are the actual values of the floor reaction forces acting on the ground contact portions 10 of the actual robot 1 (that is, the actual floor reaction forces of leaf nodes (actual node floor reaction forces)) on the basis of the outputs of the six-axis force sensor 34 of the legs #1 to #4. In addition, the floor reaction force detector 108 calculates the relative positions/postures (the relative positions in the first reference example) of the ground contact portions 10 relative to the coordinate system fixed to the body 24 on

the basis of the actual joint displacements of the joints 14 and 15 (the actual rotational angles of the joints 14 and 15 about individual rotational axes) of the legs #1 to #4 detected by sensors, such as encoders, (not shown)

5 provided on the joints 14 and 15 of the robot 1. At this time, joint displacement commands, which are the displacement command values (rotational angle command values) of the joints 14 and 15 may be used in place of actual joint displacements, or both actual joint

10 displacements and joint displacement commands may be used. Then, based on the calculated relative positions/postures of the ground contact portions 10, the detected values of the six-axis force sensors 34 of the legs #1 to #4 (these being the values on the local coordinate systems fixed to

15 the six-axis force sensors 34 or the like) are coordinate-converted to calculate actual floor reaction forces represented on the coordinate system fixed to the body 24, and then the calculated actual floor reaction forces are converted into the actual floor reaction forces

20 represented on a supporting leg coordinate system (global coordinate system). For the coordinate conversion into the supporting leg coordinate system, detected values of the posture sensor 36 or desired body posture inclinations may be used. Supplementally, in the robot 1 of the first

25 reference example, no floor reaction force moment acts on the central points of the ground contact portions 10, as described above, so that there is no need to detect a

moment component in the actual floor reaction force of each ground contact portion 10. In this case, as mentioned above, in place of the six-axis force sensor 34, a three-axis force sensor may be used to detect translational force components of actual floor reaction forces in three axes, or a one-axis floor reaction force sensor may be used to detect only translational force vertical components of actual floor reaction forces.

Based on a final desired trajectory of each ground contact portion position/posture (this being determined by a hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114, which will be discussed later) and desired body position/posture or the like, the robot geometric model (inverse kinematics calculator) 110 performs inverse kinematics calculation to calculate joint displacement commands, which are the command values of the displacements (rotational angles) of the joints 14 and 15 of the robot 1 and which satisfy the above. In the present reference example, the equation of the solution of the inverse kinematics calculation has been determined beforehand, and the joint displacement commands have been calculated simply by substituting desired body position/posture and the final desired position of each ground contact portion into the equation. More specifically, the robot geometric model 110 receives a desired body position/posture trajectory determined by the gait generating device 100 and a corrected desired ground contact portion trajectory corrected as will be

discussed later by the hierarchical compliance operation
determiner 114 (a corrected desired ground contact portion
trajectory with deformation compensation), and calculates
the joint displacement commands of the joints 14 and 15 of
5 the legs #1 to #4 by the inverse kinematics calculation
from the received values.

In the case of a robot having joints, such as arm
joints and a neck joint, in addition to leg joints, as in
the first embodiment to be discussed later, the
10 displacements of joints other than the leg joints are
determined by the inverse kinematics calculation on the
basis of the relative positions/postures of hands, the
head or the like with respect to the body.

The displacement controller 112 having a function
15 as a joint controlling means receives the actual joint
displacements (detected values) of the joints 14 and 15 of
the robot 1 and the joint displacement commands calculated
by the robot geometric model (inverse kinematics
calculator) 110, and controls (feedback-control) actuators
20 (not shown) of the joints 14 and 15 by using the joint
displacement commands as the desired values such that the
actual joint displacements follow the desired values.

The hierarchical compliance operation determiner
114 corrects a desired ground contact portion trajectory
25 such that an actual total floor reaction force
approximates the resultant force of a desired total floor
reaction force and a compensating total floor reaction

force, and outputs a corrected desired ground contact
portion position/posture trajectory with deformation
compensation, which is the desired ground contact portion
trajectory after the correction. In the present reference
5 example, the postures of the ground contact portions 10
cannot be controlled; therefore, the corrected desired
ground contact portion position/posture trajectory with
deformation compensation is actually a corrected desired
ground contact portion position trajectory with
10 deformation compensation.

The hierarchical compliance operation determiner
114 generally corrects the desired ground contact portion
trajectories of the ground contact portions 10 so as to
satisfy the following three requirements as much as
15 possible.

Requirement 1) In order to stabilize the position/posture
of the robot 1, an actual total floor reaction force is
made to follow the resultant force of a compensating total
20 floor reaction force (moment M_{dmd}) output by the posture
stabilization control calculator 104 and a desired total
floor reaction force. According to the first reference
example, in order to stabilize the posture inclination
(the inclination relative to the vertical direction) of
25 the body 24 of the robot 1, the horizontal component of an
actual total floor reaction force moment about a desired
total floor reaction force central point is made to follow

horizontal components M_{dmdx} and M_{dmdy} of the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} . Supplementally, the horizontal component of the desired total floor reaction force moment about the desired total floor reaction force central point is zero, so that the resultant force of this and M_{dmd} agrees with M_{dmd} .

Requirement 2) The absolute value of the actual floor reaction force moment about a desired floor reaction force central point of each node, which is not a leaf node, is minimized as much as possible to prevent an actual floor reaction force from being focused on some ground contact portions 10 of a plurality of ground contact portions 10 to be in contact with the ground, causing the actual floor reaction force on other ground contact portions 10 to be excessively reduced, which will lead to extremely deteriorated ground contacting properties of the ground contact portions 10 having the reduced actual floor reaction force. In the first reference example, the absolute values of the actual floor reaction force moments about the desired floor reaction force central points of the 14th node, the 23rd node, and the 1423rd node are minimized as much as possible.

Requirement 3) In order to secure the ground contacting properties of the ground contact portions 10 to be in contact with the ground, that is, to prevent local ground contacting properties of the ground contact portions 10 from deteriorating due to uneven local ground contact

pressure distribution (the distribution of an actual floor reaction force) in the ground contact portions 10, the absolute value of the actual floor reaction force moment about the desired floor reaction force central point of each ground contact portion 10 (leaf node) is minimized as much as possible. However, in the robot 1 of the first reference example, the actual floor reaction force moment about the desired floor reaction force central point of each ground contact portion 10 is always zero; therefore, it is unnecessary to consider this requirement 3).

In general, it is impossible to fully satisfy all of requirements 1) to 3) or requirements 1) and 2). For example, it is often physically impossible to zero the actual floor reaction force moment about the desired floor reaction force central point of each ground contact portion 10 while making an actual total floor reaction force agree with the resultant force of a compensating total floor reaction force and a desired total floor reaction force. Hence, the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 usually corrects the desired ground contact portion trajectories of the ground contact portions 10 at certain compromise points while satisfying requirements 1) to 3) or requirements 1) and 2) as much as possible.

The above has given the overviews of the functional means (functional components) of the control system 50.

Supplementally, the hierarchical compliance

operation determiner 114, the posture stabilization control calculator 104, and a robot geometric model (inverse kinematics calculator) 110 correspond to the node operation control means in the present invention.

5 Referring now to the flowchart of Fig. 9, the overall operation (arithmetic processing) of the control system 50 will be explained in more detail. Fig. 9 is a flowchart (structured flowchart) showing the main routine processing of the control system 50. The components of
10 the control system 50 carrying out pertinent processing are shown on the left end in Fig. 9.

 First, the initialization of the control system 50 is performed in S10, then the processing advances to S14 via S12. The arithmetic processing of the control system
15 50 waits for a timer interrupt for each control cycle. The control cycle is, for example, 50 ms.

 Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S16 wherein it determines whether a gait change is observed, and if the determination result is NO, then it proceeds to
20 S22, which will be discussed later. If the determination result in S16 is YES, then the processing proceeds to S18 wherein it initializes time t to zero, and proceeds to S20 wherein it sets gait parameters. In the present reference
 example, for example, a desired gait of a predetermined
25 period from the moment a predetermined leg (e.g., #1) of the robot 1 leaves a floor to the moment it leaves the floor next (or from the moment it lands to the moment it

lands next) is taken as a unit, and gait parameters that are the parameters defining the desired gait for the predetermined period (the parameters used in the algorithm for determining the desired gait) are set in S20. The
5 "gait change" mentioned in S16 means the change of the desired gait for the predetermined period. Whether the desired gait has changed may be determined mainly on the basis of time or a detected value of the six-axis force sensor 34 on the predetermined leg.

10 The gait parameters set in S20 are composed of motion parameters that define the desired motion trajectories (specifically, a desired ground contact portion trajectory and a desired body position/posture trajectory) of the robot 1 and the floor reaction force
15 parameters that define desired floor reaction force trajectories (specifically, a desired total floor reaction force trajectory and a desired total floor reaction force central point trajectory). Supplementally, once the desired motion of the robot 1 is determined, the desired
20 total floor reaction force can be obtained by reversing the sign of the resultant force of the inertial force generated by the desired motion and the gravity acting on the robot 1, so that the floor reaction force parameters may be the ones that define only a desired total floor
25 reaction force central point trajectory. Further, motion parameters do not have to include parameters that define a desired body position/posture trajectory if a desired

ground contact portion trajectory (more generally, the
parameter of a desired motion other than desired body
position/posture) and a desired total floor reaction force
central point are determined, and then desired body
5 position/posture are determined using a dynamic model of
the robot 1 such that the horizontal component of a moment
generated about a desired total floor reaction force
central point (desired ZMP) by the resultant force of the
inertial force generated by a desired motion, including
10 desired body position/posture of the robot 1, and the
gravity acting on the robot 1 becomes zero.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S22
wherein the instantaneous value of a desired gait is
determined on the basis of the aforesaid gait parameters.
15 Here, "instantaneous value" means a value for each control
cycle, and a desired gait instantaneous value is composed
of the instantaneous values of desired body
position/posture, a desired ground contact portion
position (the instantaneous value of a desired ground
20 contact portion trajectory), a desired total floor
reaction force, and a desired total floor reaction force
central point position (a desired ZMP position). In the
present reference example, the postures of the ground
contact portions 10 cannot be controlled, so that the
25 instantaneous values of the desired postures of the ground
contact portions 10 are not determined. In a case where
the postures of the ground contact portions can be

controlled, the parameters defining the desired postures of the ground contact portions may be included in the gait parameters and the instantaneous values of the desired postures of the ground contact portions may be determined on the basis of the parameters.

The processing of S14 to S22 described above is the processing carried out by the gait generating device 100.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S24 wherein the weight W_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) of each node and a desired floor reaction force central point of each node (a desired node floor reaction force central point) Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) are determined. This processing is the processing carried out as described above by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S26 wherein desired node floor reaction forces (including at least the desired floor reaction forces of the ground contact portions 10 (leaf nodes)) are determined. In the first reference example, the desired node floor reaction forces of leaf nodes (desired ground contact portion floor reaction forces) are determined. This processing of S26 is also the processing carried out as described above by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102. As described above, if the compliance mechanisms are provided on other portions in addition to the distal portions of the legs #1 to #4, then the desired floor reaction forces of intermediate nodes that are not leaf nodes should be

also determined. Supplementally, the moment horizontal component of a desired node floor reaction force is zero.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S28 wherein the state of the robot 1, such as the actual body posture inclination, is detected from an output of the posture sensor 36 or the like. In the first reference example, the value of an actual body posture inclination detected by the posture sensor 36 is captured by the posture error calculator 103, and a body posture inclination error θ_{berr} is calculated from the detected value and the desired body posture inclination (the instantaneous value at the current time) out of the desired body position/posture.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S30 wherein a compensating total floor reaction force for stabilizing the posture of the robot 1 is determined from the state of the robot 1 detected in S28. In the first reference example, the horizontal components M_{dmdx} and M_{dmdy} of a compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} about a desired total floor reaction force central point (desired ZMP) are calculated by the posture stabilization control calculator 104 from the body posture inclination error θ_{berr} according to the above expression 5 and expression 6.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S32 wherein the actual floor reaction force of each ground contact portion 10 is detected. This is the processing

carried out by the actual floor reaction force detector
108. As described above, the actual floor reaction force
for each ground contact portion 10 detected by the six-
axis force sensor 34 that is converted to a supporting leg
5 coordinate system (global coordinate system) is determined.
Hereinafter, the actual floor reaction force of each
ground contact portion 10 may be referred to as an actual
ground contact portion floor reaction force in some cases.

Subsequently, from S34 to S38, the processing of
10 the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 is
carried out.

For a while, the following will explain the overall
processing of the hierarchical compliance operation
determiner 114 before the processing of these S34 to S38
15 is specifically explained. In this explanation, for the
convenience of understanding, the state shown in Fig. 3(b)
mentioned above (the state wherein all the legs #1 to #4
of the robot 1 are supporting legs) will be primarily
taken as an example.

20 The hierarchical compliance operation determiner
114 determines the translational force components and
moment components of the desired node floor reaction
forces of nodes excluding leaf nodes (more specifically,
the translational force components and the moment
25 components that have desired node floor reaction force
central points as the points of action) mainly on the
basis of the desired node floor reaction forces of the

leaf nodes determined by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102.

The translational force components of the desired floor reaction forces (desired node floor reaction forces) of the nodes in the state shown in Fig. 3(b) are illustratively shown in Fig. 10. In this figure, a vector F_{n_ref} ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) denotes the translational force component of a desired n -th node floor reaction force. Further, $F_{totalref}$ denotes the translational force component of a desired total floor reaction force (= desired 1423rd node floor reaction force). As shown in Fig. 8 mentioned above, a desired n -th node floor reaction force of an arbitrary n -th node ($n=14,23,1423$) that is not a leaf node is determined to be the resultant force of the desired node floor reaction forces of all child nodes of the n -th node. Therefore, $F_{14ref}=F_{1ref}+F_{4ref}$, $F_{23ref}=F_{2ref}+F_{3ref}$, and $F_{totalref}(=F_{1423ref})=F_{14ref}+F_{23ref}$. The hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 determines the translational force components $F_{14ref}(=F_{1ref}+F_{4ref})$ and $F_{23ref}(=F_{2ref}+F_{3ref})$ of the desired node floor reaction forces of intermediate nodes, as described above, from the translational force components $F_{n_ref}(n=1,2,3,4)$ of the desired node floor reaction forces of the leaf nodes (the ground contact portion 10) determined by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102. $F_{totalref}(=F_{1423ref})$ is set to the translational force component of the desired total floor

reaction force determined by the gait generating device
100.

Furthermore, the hierarchical compliance operation
determiner 114 determines the moment component of a
5 desired node floor reaction force of each node, excluding
leaf nodes, a desired node floor reaction force central
point being the point of action, as in the case of the
translational force component of a desired node floor
reaction force. In this case, however, according to the
10 definition of a desired node floor reaction force central
point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$), the moment horizontal
component of a desired n -th node floor reaction force is
always set to zero. The moment horizontal component of a
desired 1423rd node floor reaction force (= desired total
15 floor reaction force) is also set to zero.

In the robot 1 of the present reference example,
the ground contact portions 10 are engaged with the
spherical joints 12 (free joints) at the distal portions
of the legs #1 to #4, so that floor reaction force moments
20 (horizontal components and vertical components) cannot be
generated in the ground contact portions 10 (leaf nodes).
For this reason, in the hierarchical compliance operation
determiner 114, the moment vertical components of the
desired node floor reaction forces of the ground contact
25 portions 10 (leaf nodes) are also set to zero.

If a desired node floor reaction force moment
vertical component of a node that is not a leaf node is

determined so as to dynamically balance with a desired motion of the robot 1, then it could generally take a non-zero value; however, in the present reference example, the control related to the rotation (the rotation in the yaw direction) of the posture of the robot 1 about the vertical axis is not carried out. In the present reference example, therefore, the setting of the vertical component of the moment of a desired node floor reaction force of a node that is not a leaf node will be omitted. For this reason, the moment components of desired node floor reaction forces in the state shown in Fig. 3(b) will not be shown. If the control related to the rotation of the posture of the robot 1 about the vertical axis is carried out, then the desired floor reaction force moment vertical components of the nodes should be also set.

Supplementally, if the translational force components and the moment components of the desired node floor reaction forces of the nodes, including leaf nodes, are determined by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102, then the determination need not be performed by the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114.

Further, the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 also determines the translational force component and the moment component of an actual node floor reaction force, which is the actual floor reaction force of each node.

The translational force components of the actual floor reaction forces of the nodes (actual node floor reaction forces) in the state shown in Fig. 3(b) are illustratively shown in Fig. 11. In the diagram, a vector F_{n_act} ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) denotes a translational force component of an actual n -th node floor reaction force. Further, $F_{totalact}$ denotes the translational force component of an actual total floor reaction force (= actual 1423rd node floor reaction force). In general, the translational force component of the actual floor reaction force of each node that is not a leaf node is the resultant force of the translational force components of the actual floor reaction forces of all child nodes of the node. Accordingly, the translational force components of the actual floor reaction forces of the 14th node, the 23rd node, and the 1423rd node are $F_{14act}=F_{1act}+F_{4act}$, $F_{23act}=F_{2act}+F_{3act}$, and $F_{totalact}(=F_{1423act})=F_{14act}+F_{23act}$. The translational force components F_{1act} , F_{2act} , F_{3act} , and F_{4act} of the actual floor reaction forces of the leaf nodes are the translational force components of the actual floor reaction forces (actual ground contact portion floor reaction forces) of the ground contact portions 10 obtained by the actual floor reaction force detector 108. The vectors shown by dashed lines in Fig. 11 indicate the translational force components of the desired node floor reaction forces shown in Fig. 10 mentioned above. The hierarchical compliance

operation determiner 114 determines the translational
force components of the actual node floor reaction forces
of the nodes from the actual floor reaction forces of the
ground contact portions 10 obtained by the actual floor
5 reaction force detector 108.

The moment components of the actual floor reaction
forces of the nodes in the state shown in Fig. 3(b) are
illustratively shown in Fig. 12. In the diagram, a vector
 M_{n_act} ($n=14,23,1423$) denotes the moment component of an
10 actual n -th node floor reaction force. In this case, as
with the translational force components of the actual
floor reaction forces of the nodes, in general, the moment
component of an actual floor reaction force M_{14act} , M_{23act}
or $M_{1423act}$ ($=M_{totalact}$) of a node that is not a leaf node
15 is defined as the moment component of the resultant force
of the actual floor reaction forces of all child nodes of
the node (the moment component having the desired floor
reaction force central point Q_{14} , Q_{23} or Q_{1423} of the node
as the point of action).

20 In the robot 1 of the present reference example, no
floor reaction force moment can be generated in the ground
contact portions 10 (leaf nodes), as described above, so
that the moment components of the actual floor reaction
forces of leaf nodes (actual ground contact portion floor
25 reaction forces) will be always zero. Thus, the moment
components of the actual node floor reaction forces of the
leaf nodes will not be shown.

The actual floor reaction force moment components of nodes that are not leaf nodes (in the present reference example, M14act, M23act and M1423act) are not generally zero. For example, a moment is usually generated about the desired 14th node floor reaction force central point Q14 by the horizontal components of the translational force components of the actual floor reaction forces of the first ground contact portion 10 (the 1st node) and the fourth ground contact portion 10 (the 4th node). However, in the robot 1 in the present reference example, the distal portions of the legs are provided with the spherical joints 12, which are free joints, so that a component in the same direction as a segment Q1Q4 of M14act and a component in the same direction as a segment Q2Q3 of M23act will be zero.

In a robot having the distal joints of its legs provided with actuators (a robot in which the postures of the distal ground contact portions of the legs are controllable), even if the control related to the rotation of the posture of the robot about the vertical axis is not carried out, the desired floor reaction force moment horizontal components of the ground contact portions are also set and the actual floor reaction force moments of the ground contact portions are also detected, as shown in an embodiment disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969 previously proposed by the present applicant. Then, an operation for

correcting the postures of the ground contact portions should be performed such that the actual floor reaction force moment horizontal component of each ground contact portion approximates a desired floor reaction force moment horizontal component or that the actual floor reaction force moment of each ground contact portion approximates the sum (the vector sum) of the desired floor reaction force moment horizontal component and its ground contact portion compensating floor reaction force moment.

The processing of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 will be explained in more detail. In this case, a situation is assumed in which the posture of the body 24 of the robot 1 is about to fall toward left rear in the state shown in Fig. 3(b) and the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} determined by the posture stabilization control calculator 104 is as shown in Fig. 13.

To restore the posture (the inclination relative to the vertical direction) of the body 24 of the robot 1 (to restore the inclination in a desired body posture), the horizontal component of an actual total floor reaction force moment about a desired total floor reaction force central point (a desired ZMP) may be made to follow the horizontal component of the sum of a desired total floor reaction force moment $M_{totalref}$ ($=M_{1423ref}$) and a compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} .

Meanwhile, at the desired total floor reaction

force central point (the desired ZMP), the horizontal component of the desired total floor reaction force moment $M_{totalref}$ is zero. Hence, to restore the posture (inclination) of the body 24 of the robot 1 in the longitudinal and lateral directions, the horizontal component of the actual total floor reaction force moment about the desired total floor reaction force central point (the desired ZMP) may be made to follow the horizontal components (M_{dmdx} , M_{dmdy}) of M_{dmd} . Further, in the present reference example, the actual floor reaction force moment about the desired floor reaction force central point of each ground contact portion 10 is zero.

Therefore, the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in the first reference example corrects the desired ground contact portion position (especially the position in the height direction) of each ground contact portion 10 determined by the gait generating device 100 so as to satisfy the aforesaid requirements 1) and 2) as much as possible.

To make the correction, the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 determines a compensating angle. The compensating angle is a manipulated variable (a rotational amount) for correcting the relative relationship among the positions of the ground contact portions 10 by the operation of rotation about a certain point (correcting in the vertical direction in the present reference example). In the present reference example,

there are a 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} , a 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} , and a 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} as the compensating angles. In other words, they are the compensating angles of the nodes other than leaf nodes. Then, the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 determines a desired n-th node floor reaction force central point Q_n' obtained by correcting the desired n-th node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) on the basis of these compensating angles θ_{14} , θ_{23} and θ_{1423} .

As shown in Fig. 15, the 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} is the angle formed by a segment Q_1Q_4 and a segment $Q_1'Q_4'$, and the 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} is the angle formed by a segment Q_2Q_3 and a segment $Q_2'Q_3'$. Further, as shown in Fig. 16, the 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} is the angle formed by a segment $Q_{14}Q_{23}$ and a segment $Q_{14}'Q_{23}'$. The technique for determining these node compensating angles θ_{14} , θ_{23} and θ_{1423} will be described later.

Referring to Fig. 15 and Fig. 16, the correction of the desired n-th node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$) on the basis of the compensating angles θ_{14} , θ_{23} and θ_{1423} is made as follows.

Referring to Fig. 15, a normal vector V_{14} of a plane that includes a desired first node floor reaction force central point Q_1 (the desired floor reaction force central point of a first ground contact portion 10) and a

desired fourth node floor reaction force central point Q4
(the desired floor reaction force central point of a
second ground contact portion 10) and that is

perpendicular to a horizontal plane is determined. The
5 magnitude of V14 is 1. The coordinate (position) of the
desired first node floor reaction force central point Q1
is rotationally moved about a normal vector V14 with the
desired 14th node floor reaction force central point Q14
being the center of rotation (about the axis that passes
10 Q14 and is parallel to V14) by the aforesaid 14th node
compensating angle θ_{14} . The point after Q1 is moved by
the above rotational movement is defined as Q1'.

Similarly, the coordinate (position) of the desired fourth
node floor reaction force central point Q4 is rotationally
15 moved about the normal vector V14 with the desired 14th
node floor reaction force central point being the center
of rotation by the 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} . The
point after Q4 is moved by the above rotational movement
is defined as Q4'. In other words, the end points of a

20 segment obtained by rotating the segment Q1Q4 about V14 by
 θ_{14} with Q14, which is an internally dividing point
thereof, being the center of rotation are defined as Q1'
and Q4'. Thus, the 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} is a
manipulated variable for moving the relative relationship
25 of the positions of the desired floor reaction force
central points Q1 and Q4 of the first node and the fourth
node, respectively, which are child nodes of the 14th node,

without moving the position of the desired floor reaction force central point Q14 of the 14th node.

Moreover, a normal vector V23 of a plane that includes a desired second node floor reaction force central point Q2 and a desired third node floor reaction force central point Q3 and that is perpendicular to a horizontal plane is determined. The magnitude of V23 is 1. The coordinate (position) of the desired second node floor reaction force central point Q2 is rotationally moved about the normal vector V23 with the desired 23rd node floor reaction force central point Q23 being the center of rotation (about the axis that passes Q23 and is parallel to V23) by the 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} . As shown in Fig. 15, the point after Q2 is moved by the above rotational movement is defined as Q2'. Similarly, the coordinate (position) of the desired third ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q3 is rotationally moved about the normal vector V23 with the desired 23rd node floor reaction force central point being the center of rotation by the 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} . The point after Q3 is moved by the above rotational movement is defined as Q3'. In other words, the end points of a segment obtained by rotating the segment Q2Q3 about V23 by θ_{23} with Q23, which is an internally dividing point thereof, being the center of rotation are defined as Q2' and Q3'. Thus, the 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} is a manipulated variable for moving the relative

relationship of the positions of the desired floor
reaction force central points Q2 and Q3 of the second node
and the third node, respectively, which are child nodes of
the 23rd node, without moving the position of the desired
5 floor reaction force central point Q23 of the 23rd node.

Next, referring to Fig. 16, a normal vector V1423
of a plane that includes a desired 14th node floor
reaction force central point Q14 and a desired 23rd node
floor reaction force central point Q23 and that is
10 perpendicular to a horizontal plane is determined. The
magnitude of V1423 is 1. The coordinate (position) of the
desired 14th node floor reaction force central point Q14
is rotationally moved about the normal vector V1423 with
the desired total floor reaction force central point P
15 (=Q1423) being the center of rotation (about the axis that
passes P and is parallel to V1423) by the 1423rd
compensating angle θ_{1423} . The point after Q14 is moved by
the above rotational movement is defined as Q14'.
Similarly, the coordinate (position) of the desired 23rd
20 ground contact portion floor reaction force central point
Q23 is rotationally moved about the normal vector V1423
with the desired total floor reaction force central point
P being the center of rotation by the 1423rd compensating
angle θ_{1423} . The point after Q23 is moved by the above
25 rotational movement is defined as Q23'. In other words,
the end points of a segment obtained by rotating a segment
Q14Q23 about V1423 by θ_{1423} with P(=Q1423), which is an

internally dividing point thereof, being the center of rotation are defined as Q_{14}' and Q_{23}' . Thus, the 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} is a manipulated variable for moving the relative relationship of the positions of the desired floor reaction force central points Q_{14} and Q_{23} of the 14th node and the 23rd node, respectively, which are child nodes of the 1423rd node, without moving the position of the desired floor reaction force central point P of the 1423rd node.

Hereinafter, generally, a vector whose start point is A and end point is B will be denoted as a vector A_B .

Next, a point Q_1'' that would be obtained when Q_1' is moved for a vector $Q_{14_Q_{14}'}$ is determined. Similarly, a point Q_4'' that would be obtained when Q_4' is moved for a vector $Q_{14_Q_{14}'}$ is determined. Further, a point Q_2'' that would be obtained when Q_2' is moved for a vector $Q_{23_Q_{23}'}$ is determined. Similarly, a point Q_3'' that would be obtained when Q_3' is moved for a vector $Q_{23_Q_{23}'}$ is determined.

Subsequently, the desired ground contact portion position of an n-th ground contact portion ($n=1,2,3,4$) is moved in parallel by a vector $Q_n_Q_n''$ (substantially vertical movement). This corrects the desired ground contact portion position of each ground contact portion 10. Supplementally, as with the desired floor reaction force central point of each node, if the position of each leaf node is set to the position of the ground contact portion

10 corresponding to the leaf node, and the position of
each node having child nodes is defined as a weighted
average position of the positions of all child nodes of
the node, using the weights set as described above, then
5 the processing for moving the desired floor reaction force
central points of the child nodes of the 14th node, the
23rd node, and the 1423rd node, respectively, on the basis
of the compensating angles θ_{14} , θ_{23} , and θ_{1423} , as
described above, is equivalent to moving the positions of
10 the child nodes of the 14th node, the 23rd node, and the
1423rd node, respectively, on the basis of the
compensating angles θ_{14} , θ_{23} , and θ_{1423} .

In a robot in which the distal portions of its legs
have no free joints (a robot in which the postures of
15 ground contact portions can be controlled), the aforesaid
parallel movement is performed without changing the
postures (desired postures) of ground contact portions,
and then the n-th ground contact portion is further
rotated by a certain rotational angle θ_{n_x} about a
20 longitudinal axis (X axis) and also rotated about a
lateral axis (Y axis) by a certain rotational angle θ_{n_y} ,
with Q_n being the center. This corrects the desired
postures of ground contact portions. The rotational angle
 θ_n (a two-dimensional amount composed of θ_{n_x} and θ_{n_y}) in
25 this case is referred to as an n-th ground contact portion
compensating angle, θ_{n_x} is referred to as an n-th ground
contact portion compensating angle X component, and θ_{n_y}

is referred to as an n-th ground contact portion compensating angle Y component. The n-th ground contact portion compensating angle θ_n may be determined according to the technique described in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969 previously proposed by the present applicant.

Supplementally, the desired node floor reaction force central point of the node being the point of action, each of the node compensating angles is determined such that a resultant force of a desired floor reaction force moment (the horizontal component thereof is zero) and a node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{n_dmd} is generated there. In this case, the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} , which provides the basis of the node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{n_dmd} , is determined such that an actual posture inclination error approximates zero. Hence, each node compensating angle will function as a manipulated variable for manipulating the relative positional relationship among the ground contact portions 10 such that an actual posture inclination error approximates zero while bringing a floor reaction force moment about a desired total floor reaction force central point close to a desired moment (a compensating total floor reaction force moment in this case).

As described above, the processing for correcting the desired ground contact portion positions (specifically,

the mutual relative relationship among the positions) of the ground contact portions 10 is the hierarchical compliance operation in the first reference example. In the compliance operation, for each node having child nodes, the manipulated variable (correction amount) of the relative relationship among the desired ground contact portion positions (relative positional relationship) of the ground contact portions 10, which are the descendant nodes of the node, is determined for each of the compensating angles θ_{14} , θ_{23} , and θ_{1423} , and the manipulated variables (correction amounts) are combined so as to correct the mutual relative relationship of the desired ground contact portion positions of the ground contact portions 10. The desired ground contact portion position/posture corrected as described above are referred to as corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture.

In such a compliance operation, generally, if the aforesaid compensating angles (compensating operation amounts) are not excessive, then a ground contact region (a region of the ground contact surface wherein the pressure is positive) remains unchanged even if the ground contact pressure distribution of each ground contact portion 10 changes. In this case, the compliance mechanism 42 attached to each ground contact portion 10 deforms in proportion to a compensating angle, and an actual floor reaction force of each ground contact portion

10 based on the amount of the deformation is generated.
As a result, the relationship between the compensating
angles and the changing amounts of the actual floor
reaction forces generated by the compensating angles has
5 good characteristics, namely, linear characteristics,
shown below.

Characteristic 1) If only the compensating angles about
the desired floor reaction force central points of nodes
10 that are not leaf nodes are manipulated to move the
desired ground contact portion positions of the ground
contact portions 10, then the translational force
components of the actual floor reaction forces of the
ground contact portions 10 that have been lowered increase,
15 while the translational force components of the actual
floor reaction forces of the ground contact portions 10
that have been raised decrease. At this time, the actual
floor reaction force moments about the corrected desired
floor reaction force central points of the ground contact
20 portions 10 (leaf nodes) hardly change.

Characteristic 2) If only an n-th ground contact portion
compensating angle is manipulated to rotate the desired
posture of the n-th ground contact portion, then the
moment component of the actual floor reaction force acting
25 on the desired floor reaction force central point of the
n-th ground contact portion changes, while the
translational force component does not change much.

Characteristic 3) If the compensating angle about the
desired floor reaction force central point of a node that
is not a leaf node and an n-th ground contact portion
compensating angle are simultaneously manipulated, then
5 the change amount of the actual floor reaction forces of
the ground contact portions 10 will be equivalent to the
sum of the change amounts obtained when each of them is
independently manipulated.

Fig. 17 is a block diagram showing the functions of
10 the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in
the present reference example. Referring to the diagram,
the processing of the hierarchical compliance operation
determiner 114 will be explained in further detail.

The hierarchical compliance operation determiner
15 114 is equipped with, as its functional means, a
compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor
114a, compensating angle determiners 114b, 114c and 114d,
a corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture calculator 114g, a deformation
20 compensation amount calculator 114n, and a corrected
desired ground contact portion position/posture with
deformation compensation calculator 114h.

The compensating total floor reaction force moment
distributor 114a distributes the aforesaid compensating
25 total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} (M_{dmdx} , M_{dmdy}) to
the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment
 $M_{1423dmd}$, the 14th node compensating floor reaction force

moment M14dmd and the 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M23dmd.

The 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M1423dmd is the desired value of a moment to be generated about the desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point (= desired total floor reaction force central point (desired ZMP)) by the translational force components of the floor reaction forces of the ground contact portions 10 (specifically, the first to the fourth ground contact portions) when the 1423rd compensating angle θ_{1423} is manipulated.

The component of the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M1423dmd in the direction of the aforesaid vector V1423 (the component about the axis in the V1423 direction) is described as M1423dmdv. The vector V1423 is the vector defined in the general explanation of the compliance operation of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 (refer to Fig. 16). If a vector orthogonal to V1423 and also orthogonal to the vertical direction is defined as U1423, then the component in the direction of U1423 of the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M1423dmd (the component about the axis in the U1423 direction) M1423dmdu is set to zero in the present reference example. This is because the component of a floor reaction force moment in the U1423 direction cannot be generated even if the 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} is manipulated in

the robot 1 of the present reference example. Further, in the present reference example, the rotation of the posture of the robot 1 about the vertical axis is not controlled; therefore, the component $M_{1423dmdz}$ of $M_{1423dmd}$ in the vertical direction is also set to zero.

The 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{14dmd} is the desired value of a moment to be generated about the desired 14th node floor reaction force central point by the translational force components of the floor reaction forces of the ground contact portions (specifically, the first and the fourth ground contact portions) when the 14th compensating angle θ_{14} is manipulated.

The component of the 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{14dmd} in the direction of the vector V_{14} is described as M_{14dmdv} . The vector V_{14} is the vector defined in the general explanation of the compliance operation of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 (refer to Fig. 15). If a vector orthogonal to V_{14} and also orthogonal to the vertical direction is defined as U_{14} , then the component M_{14dmdu} in the direction of U_{14} of the 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{14dmd} is set to zero in the present reference example. This is because the component of a floor reaction force moment in the U_{14} direction cannot be generated even if the 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} is manipulated in the robot 1 of the present reference

example. In the present reference example, the component of M_{14dmd} in the vertical direction is also set to zero.

The 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{23dmd} is the desired value of a moment to be generated about the desired 23rd node floor reaction force central point by the translational force components of the floor reaction forces of the ground contact portions 10 (specifically, the second and the third ground contact portions) when the 23rd compensating angle θ_{23} is manipulated.

The component of the 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{23dmd} in the direction of the vector V_{23} is described as M_{23dmdv} . The vector V_{23} is the vector defined in the general explanation of the compliance operation of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 (refer to Fig. 15). If a vector orthogonal to V_{23} and also orthogonal to the vertical direction is defined as U_{23} , then the component M_{23dmdu} in the direction of U_{23} of the 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{23dmd} is set to zero in the present reference example. This is because the component of a floor reaction force moment in the U_{23} direction cannot be generated even if the 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} is manipulated in the robot 1 of the present reference example. In the present reference example, the component of M_{23dmd} in the vertical direction is also set to zero.

The 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force

moment $M_{1423dmd}$, the 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{14dmd} , and the 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{23dmd} are determined, for example, as follows.

5 On an arbitrary n-th node, if a desired n-th node floor reaction force central point has been corrected while maintaining the horizontal component of an n-th node compensating floor reaction force moment at zero so as to be equivalent to adding the n-th node compensating floor
10 reaction force moment to the desired n-th node floor reaction force central point, then the desired n-th node floor reaction force central point position that has been corrected is referred to as a corrected desired n-th node floor reaction force central point position.

15 The relationships between a corrected desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point P_{mdfd} ($=Q_{1423mdfd}$), a corrected desired 14th node floor reaction force central point Q_{14mdfd} , and a corrected desired 23rd node floor reaction force central point Q_{23mdfd} , and node
20 compensating floor reaction force moments are shown by the following expressions 7 to 9. The desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point Q_{1423} agrees with the total floor reaction force central point P , so that the corrected desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central
25 point P_{mdfd} may be referred to as a corrected desired total floor reaction force central point in some cases.

$M_{1423dmd} = (P_{mdfd} - P) * F_{totalref}$... Expression 7

$M_{14dmd} = (Q_{14mdfd} - Q_{14}) * F_{14ref}$... Expression 8

$M_{23dmd} = (Q_{23mdfd} - Q_{23}) * F_{23ref}$... Expression 9

5 The difference between two points, such as $(P_{mdfd} - P)$ in expression 7, means the difference in the positional vectors of the points. Further, $F_{totalref}$, F_{14ref} , and F_{23ref} denote the translational force components of the desired node floor reaction forces of the 1423rd node, the
10 14th node, and the 23rd node, respectively, as shown in Fig. 10.

 To maintain high ground contact properties of the robot 1, control should not be carried out to bring the floor reaction force of the ground contact portion 10 to
15 be in contact with the ground excessively close to zero or a negative value. Hence, the following conditions 1) to 3) should be satisfied.

Corrected node existing position condition 1)

P_{mdfd} is not excessively close to an end point of
20 the segment $Q_{14}Q_{23}$ from the total floor reaction force central point P and exists on the segment $Q_{14}Q_{23}$. The range in which the corrected desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point (corrected desired total floor reaction force central point) P_{mdfd} should exist is
25 referred to as the existence permissible range of the corrected desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central point (corrected desired total floor reaction force

central point).

Corrected node existing position condition 2)

Q14mdfd is not excessively close to an end point of
the segment Q1Q4 from the desired 14th node floor reaction
force central point Q14 and exists on the segment Q1Q4.

The range in which the corrected desired 14th node floor
reaction force central point Q14mdfd should exist is
referred to as the existence permissible range of the
corrected desired 14th node floor reaction force central
point.

Corrected node existing position condition 3)

Q23mdfd is not excessively close to an end point of
the segment Q2Q3 from the desired 23rd node floor reaction
force central point Q23 and exists on the segment Q2Q3.

The range in which the corrected desired 23rd node floor
reaction force central point Q23mdfd should exist is
referred to as the existence permissible range of the
corrected desired 23rd node floor reaction force central
point.

Meanwhile, to obtain an appropriate posture
restoring force actually generated in the robot 1 (the
force for restoring the inclination of the body 24 to a
desired body posture inclination), the resultant force of
the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment
M1423dmd, the 14th node compensating floor reaction force
moment M14dmd, and the 23rd node compensating floor

reaction force moment M23dmd should approximately agree with the compensating total floor reaction force moment Mdmd. In other words, the following expression 10 should be approximately satisfied.

5

$$Mdmd = M1423dmd + M14dmd + M23dmd \quad \dots \text{Expression 10}$$

In the present reference example, therefore, the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M1423dmd, the 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment M14dmd, and the 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M23dmd are determined according to expressions 11 to 13 given below as long as the positions of the corrected desired node floor reaction force central points Pmdfd, Q14mdfd and Q23mdfd determined by the above moments and the aforesaid expression 7, expression 8, and expression 9 satisfy the aforesaid corrected node existence position conditions 1), 2) and 3).

20 $M1423dmd = Mat1423 * Mdmd * V1423 \quad \dots \text{Expression 11}$

$$M14dmd = Mat14 * Mdmd * V14 \quad \dots \text{Expression 12}$$

$$M23dmd = Mat23 * Mdmd * V23 \quad \dots \text{Expression 13}$$

25 where Mat1423, Mat14, and Mat23 denote gain matrixes (1-row, 3-column matrixes whose third elements are zero), and these are set such that M1423dmd, M14dmd, and M23dmd determined according to expression 11, expression 12, and

expression 13 satisfy expression 10.

More precisely, the gain matrixes Mat_{1423} , Mat_{14} , and Mat_{23} are determined such that a simultaneous equation composed of expression 10, expression 11, expression 12, and expression 13 identically holds regardless of the value of M_{dmd} . The gain matrix for the simultaneous equation to identically hold is not uniquely determined, so that an appropriate gain matrix may be determined depending on, for example, which one of the corrected node existence position conditions 1), 2) and 3) is especially important. Supplementally, the gain matrixes are desirably changed continuously so as to make the compensating angles θ_{1423} , θ_{14} and θ_{23} continuously change. Further, the policy of setting gain matrixes may be changed according to whether the robot 1 is standing upright or the difference in movement mode or the like.

If the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment $M_{1423dmd}$, the 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{14dmd} , and the 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{23dmd} determined according to expression 11, expression 12, and expression 13 do not satisfy any one of the corrected node existence position conditions 1), 2) and 3), then they are corrected to satisfy the conditions 1), 2) and 3). More specifically, of the corrected desired n-th node floor reaction force central points ($n=1423, 14, 23$), a corrected desired node floor reaction force central point that has

exceeded the existence permissible range is set at a point on the boundary of the existence permissible range, and the remaining corrected desired node floor reaction force central points are determined so that they satisfy

5 expression 11, expression 12, and expression 13 as much as possible (to minimize the absolute value of the difference between a left side and a right side as much as possible). Generally, however, the behavior of an object under control does not considerably change even if a feedback
10 amount slightly changes in feedback control; therefore, it is not required to strictly or forcibly satisfy expression 11, expression 12, and expression 13.

The compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a determines the node compensating floor
15 reaction force moments $M_{1423dmd}$, M_{14dmd} , and M_{23dmd} as described above. Fig. 14 shows the examples of the node compensating floor reaction force moments $M_{1423dmd}$, M_{14dmd} , and M_{23dmd} determined as described above. In the figure, M_{dmd} is the same as that shown in Fig. 13 mentioned above.

20 Moreover, the compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a determines the corrected desired ground contact portion floor reaction forces $F_{n_refmdfd}$ ($n=1,2,3,4$), which are the desired floor reaction forces of the ground contact portions 10 that are
25 corrected by adding node compensating floor reaction force moments to desired ground contact portion floor reaction forces, on the basis of the desired ground contact portion

floor reaction forces, which are the desired floor
reaction forces of the ground contact portions 10 (the
desired node floor reaction forces of leaf nodes), and the
node compensating floor reaction force moments M1423dmd,
5 M14dmd and M23dmd.

At this time, the corrected desired ground contact
portion floor reaction forces $F_{n_refmdfd}$ ($n=1,2,3,4$) may
be determined from the desired floor reaction force
central points Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$), the corrected total floor
10 reaction force central points P_{mdfd} , the corrected desired
node floor reaction force central points Q_{14mdfd} and
 Q_{23mdfd} , and the desired total floor reaction forces
 $F_{totalref}$ of the ground contact portions 10 by the same
technique as the technique for determining deciding
15 desired node floor reaction forces from the desired floor
reaction force central points (the desired node floor
reaction force central points of leaf nodes) Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$),
the desired total floor reaction force central points P ,
the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{14}
20 and Q_{23} , and the desired total floor reaction forces
 $F_{totalref}$ of the ground contact portions 10. In other
words, the weights of the nodes are determined according
to the aforesaid expressions 1 to 3 from the desired floor
reaction force central points Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4$), the corrected
25 total floor reaction force central points P_{mdfd} , and the
corrected desired node floor reaction force central points
 Q_{14mdfd} and Q_{23mdfd} of the ground contact portions 10, and

the corrected desired ground contact portion floor reaction forces $F_{n_refmdfd}$ ($n=1,2,3,4$) may be determined according to the aforesaid expression 4 by using the determined weight.

5 As is obvious from the above, generating a node compensating floor reaction force moment at a desired n -th node floor reaction force central point of an n -th node having child nodes (correcting the moment component of the desired floor reaction force acting on a desired n -th node
10 floor reaction force central point) is equivalent to correcting the weights of the child nodes of the n -th node.

 The processing of the compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a explained above is represented by the functional block diagram shown in Fig.
15 18. More specifically, based on the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23$), the existence permissible ranges of the 14th node, the 23rd node, and the corrected desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{n_mdfd} ($n=14,23,1423$) are determined
20 according to the aforesaid corrected node existence position conditions 1), 2) and 3). Further, the corrected desired node floor reaction force central points Q_{n_mdfd} ($n=14,23,1423$) and the node compensating floor reaction force moments M_{n_dmd} ($n=14,23,1423$) are determined on the
25 basis of the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} , the desired floor reaction force central points of nodes Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423$), the desired

floor reaction forces $F_{n_ref}(n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423)$ and the
aforesaid existence permissible ranges. In addition, the
corrected desired ground contact portion floor reaction
forces $F_{n_refmdfd}(n=1,2,3,4)$ are determined on the basis
5 of the corrected desired node floor reaction force central
points $Q_{n_mdfd}(n=14,23,1423)$, the desired floor reaction
force central points $Q_n(n=1,2,3,4)$ of the ground contact
portions 10, and the desired total floor reaction force
 $F_{totalref}$.

10 Next, the processing of the compensating angle
determiner (01423 determiner) 114b out of the aforesaid
compensating angle determiners 114b to 114d will be
explained with reference to the block diagram of Fig. 19.
If the translational force component ($F_{lact}+F_{4act}$) of the
15 resultant force of the actual first node floor reaction
force and the actual fourth node floor reaction force acts
on a desired 14th node floor reaction force central point
 Q_{14} and the translational force component ($F_{2act}+F_{3act}$) of
the resultant force of the actual second node floor
20 reaction force and the actual third node floor reaction
force acts on a desired 23rd node floor reaction force
central point Q_{23} , then a moment $M_{1423act}$ generated about
the desired total floor reaction force central point P
(the desired 1423rd node floor reaction force central
25 point) by the above translational force components is
determined according to expression 14 given below.

$$M_{1423act} = P_{Q14}*(F_{1act}+F_{4act})+P_{Q23}*(F_{2act}+F_{3act})$$

... Expression 14

where P_{Q14} denotes a vector whose start point is P and
5 end point is Q14, and P_{Q23} denotes a vector whose start
point is P and end point is Q23.

In actuality, there will be hardly a problem if
expression 15 given below is used in place of expression
14 to calculate $M_{1423act}$.

$$M_{1423act} = P_{Q1}*F_{1act}+P_{Q2}*F_{2act}$$
$$+ P_{Q3}*F_{3act} + P_{Q4}*F_{4act}$$

... Expression 15

15 The right side of expression 15 is an expression
for calculating the actual total floor reaction force
moment $M_{totalact}$ acting about the desired total floor
reaction force central point P from the translational
force components $F_{n_act}(n=1,2,3,4)$ of the actual floor
20 reaction forces of the first to the fourth nodes (leaf
nodes). Supplementally, in expression 14, the actual
floor reaction force moment acting about the desired 14th
node floor reaction force central point Q14 and the actual
floor reaction force moment acting about the desired 23rd
25 node floor reaction force central point Q23 are subtracted
from the actual total floor reaction force moment
 $M_{totalact}$ acting about the desired total floor reaction

force central point P.

In general, an actual n-th node floor reaction force moment Mn_act of an arbitrary n-th node, which is a leaf node, is the actual floor reaction force moment of an n-th ground contact portion. Regarding an arbitrary n-th node, which is not a leaf node, the moment from the floor reaction forces of all child nodes thereof acting on the desired n-th node floor reaction force central point (the floor reaction forces of the child nodes here are, strictly speaking, the floor reaction forces acting on the desired floor reaction force central points of the child nodes) is referred to as an actual n-th node floor reaction force moment Mn_act . As in expression 14 and expression 15, an actual n-th node floor reaction force moment has a definition that includes the actual floor reaction force moments of child nodes and a definition that does not include them; however, either of the definitions may be used. Especially when the responsiveness of feedback control for controlling the horizontal components of the actual floor reaction force moments of child nodes is high, the horizontal components of the actual floor reaction force moments of the child nodes immediately converge to zero, so that the behavior of the control of the actual floor reaction force of an n-th node does not change much when either of the definitions is used.

Expression 16 shown below is a general expression

for calculating an actual n-th node floor reaction force moment corresponding to expression 14, and expression 17 is a general expression for calculating an actual n-th node floor reaction force moment corresponding to

5 expression 15. However, in expression 16 and expression 17, $Q_n_Q_m$ is a vector whose start point is Q_n and end point is Q_m . An actual floor reaction force moment M_{m_act} of an m-th node, which is a leaf node, is an actual floor reaction force moment of each ground contact portion
10 detected by an actual floor reaction force detector.

If $m \in \{\text{set of numbers of child nodes of n-th node}\}$, then

$$M_{n_act} = \sum (Q_n_Q_m * F_{m_act}) \quad \dots \text{Expression 16}$$

15 If $m \in \{\text{set of numbers of leaf nodes, which are descendants of n-th node}\}$, then

$$M_{n_act} = \sum (Q_n_Q_m * F_{m_act} + M_{m_act}) \quad \dots \text{Expression 17}$$

Σ in expressions 16 and 17 means the total sum
20 regarding m. Supplementally, in the first reference example, the actual floor reaction force moment about the desired floor reaction force central point of a leaf node (each ground contact portion) becomes zero; therefore, the right side of the above expression 15 does not include a
25 component of M_{m_act} of expression 17. In a robot in which the postures of ground contact portions can be controlled, M_{m_act} of expression 17 generally does not become zero.

The 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} may generally be determined by feedback control law or the like such that the difference between $M_{1423act}$ determined as described above and the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force moment $M_{1423dmd}$ previously determined by the compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a ($M_{1423act} - M_{1423dmd}$) approximates zero. For example, θ_{1423} may be determined by, for example, multiplying the difference by a predetermined gain matrix (tertiary diagonal matrix).

However, in the present reference example, the 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} about the axis in the direction of the aforesaid vector V_{1423} may be determined, so that θ_{1423} may be determined on the basis of the difference between a component $M_{1423actv}$ in the direction of the vector V_{1423} of $M_{1423act}$ and a component $M_{1423dmdv}$ in the direction of the vector V_{1423} of $M_{1423dmd}$. And, at this time, in the present reference example, $M_{1423actv}$ and $M_{1423dmdv}$ are passed through a filter before determining θ_{1423} on the basis of the difference therebetween in order to enhance the responsiveness and stability of the control of floor reaction forces.

Specifically, the component $M_{1423actv}$ of $M_{1423act}$ in the direction of the vector V_{1423} determined as described above is extracted. This is obtained by the following expression 18 using a scalar product calculation “.” of a vector.

$$M1423actv = M1423act \cdot V1423 \quad \dots \text{Expression 18}$$

The processing for calculating M1423actv as
5 described above is executed by a calculator indicated by a
reference numeral 114k in Fig. 19.

Next, the aforesaid M1423actv is passed through a
low-pass filter 114i to obtain M1423actvfilt. Furthermore,
the component M1423dmdv of the aforesaid 1423rd node
10 compensating floor reaction force moment M1423dmd in the
V1423 direction is passed through a compensating filter
114j to obtain M1423dmdvfilt. Incidentally, M1423dmdv is
determined by the scalar product calculation of M1423dmd
and V1423, as with the aforesaid expression 18. Then, the
15 result obtained by subtracting M1423dmdvfilt from
M1423actvfilt provides a component M1423errv in the
direction of an error moment V1423.

The aforesaid compensating filter 114j improves the
frequency response characteristic of transfer functions
20 from M1423dmdv to an actual total floor reaction force
moment in a control system.

Lastly, the aforesaid 1423rd node compensating
angle $\theta 1423$ is obtained by the calculation of the feedback
control law (proportional control law in this case) of the
25 following expression 19. Here, K1423 denotes a control
gain, and it is normally set to a positive value.

$$\theta_{1423} = K_{1423} * M_{1423errv} \quad \dots \text{Expression 19}$$

This means that the component $M_{1423errv}$ in the direction of the error moment V_{1423} is multiplied by the control gain K_{1423} to obtain the 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} .

The processing of the compensating angle determiner (θ_{14} determiner) 114c in Fig. 17 will now be explained with reference to Fig. 20. If the translational force component F_{1act} of the actual first node floor reaction force (the actual floor reaction force of the first ground contact portion 10) acts on a desired first node floor reaction force central point Q_1 and the translational force component F_{4act} of the actual fourth node floor reaction force (the actual floor reaction force of the fourth ground contact portion 10) acts on a desired fourth node floor reaction force central point Q_4 , then a moment M_{14act} generated about the desired 14th node floor reaction force central point Q_{14} by the above translational force components is determined according to the aforesaid expression 16, which is a general expression.

More specifically, it is determined according to the following expression 20.

$$M_{14act} = Q_{14_Q1} * F_{1act} + Q_{14_Q4} * F_{4act} \quad \dots \text{Expression 20}$$

where Q_{14_Q1} denotes a vector whose start point is Q_{14} and

end point is Q1, and Q14_Q4 denotes a vector whose start point is Q14 and end point is Q4.

In actuality, for the reason described previously, there will be hardly a problem if the following expression 21 (expression substantiating the above expression 17) is used in place of expression 20.

$$M14act = Q14_Q1*F1act+Q14_Q4*F4act+M1act+M4act$$

... Expression 21

where M1act denotes an actual first node floor reaction force moment and M4act denotes an actual fourth node floor reaction force moment. In the first reference example, the distal portions of the legs #1 to #4 are provided with free joints (spherical joints 12), so that M1act and M4act are zero.

Expression 21 is an expression for calculating the moment acting about the desired 14th node floor reaction force central point generated by the resultant force of the actual floor reaction forces of all leaf nodes of the 14th node. Incidentally, expression 20 subtracts the actual first node floor reaction force moment and the actual fourth node floor reaction force moment from the moment acting about the desired 14th floor reaction force central point generated by the resultant force of the actual floor reaction forces of all leaf nodes of the 14th node.

The 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} may be generally determined by the feedback control law or the like such that the difference between M_{14act} determined as described above and the 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment $M_{1423dmd}$ previously determined by the compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a ($M_{14act} - M_{14dmd}$) approximates zero.

In the present reference example, however, for the same reason as that in the case of θ_{1423} , θ_{14} is determined on the basis of the difference between the component M_{14actv} of M_{14act} in the aforesaid direction of the vector V_{14} and the component M_{14dmdv} of M_{14dmd} in the direction of the vector V_{14} , which have been respectively passed through a filter.

More specifically, the component M_{14actv} of M_{14act} in the direction of the vector V_{14} determined as described above is extracted. This is obtained by expression 22 given below that uses the scalar product calculation of vectors.

$$M_{14actv} = M_{14act} \cdot V_{14} \quad \dots \text{Expression 22}$$

The processing for calculating M_{14actv} as described above is carried out by a calculator indicated by a reference character 114k' in Fig. 20.

Next, the aforesaid M_{14actv} is passed through a low-pass filter 114i' to obtain $M_{14actvfilt}$. Further, the

component M14dmdv of the aforesaid 14th node compensating floor reaction force moment M14dmd in the direction of V14 is passed through a compensating filter 114j' to obtain M14dmdvfilt. Incidentally, M14dmdv is determined by the scalar product calculation of M14dmd and V14. Then, M14dmdvfilt is subtracted from M14actvfilt to obtain a component M14errv in the direction of an error moment V14. Incidentally, the compensating filter 114j' improves the frequency response characteristics of transfer functions from M14dmdv to actual total floor reaction force moments in a control system.

Lastly, the aforesaid 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} is obtained by the calculation of the feedback control law (proportional control law in this case) of expression 23 given below. Here, K14 denotes a control gain, which is normally set to a positive value.

$$\theta_{14} = K_{14} * M_{14errv} \quad \dots \text{Expression 23}$$

The processing of the compensating angle determiner (θ_{23} determiner) 114d in Fig. 17 is the same as the processing of the 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} determiner 114c; therefore, detailed explanation thereof will be omitted here. The following provides an overview of the processing. A component M23actv of a moment M23act in the direction of a vector V23, the moment being generated about a desired 23rd node floor reaction force

central point Q23 by the actual floor reaction forces of the child nodes of a 23rd node, is calculated on the basis of the aforesaid expression 16 or 17. Then, the 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} is calculated by the arithmetic processing of the feedback control law (proportional control law) from a component M23errv in the direction of the error moment V23 obtained by subtracting M23actvfilt, which is obtained by passing the above M23actv through a low-pass filter, from M23dmdvfilt obtained by passing the component M23dmdv of the aforesaid 23rd node compensating floor reaction force moment M23dmd in the direction of V23 through a compensating filter.

The processing of the compensating angle determiners 114b to 114d determines the sets of the node compensating angles θ_{1423} , θ_{14} , and θ_{23} such that the horizontal components of the actual moments Mact acting on the desired total floor reaction force central points P approximate the compensating total floor reaction force moment Mdmd. In the present reference example, θ_{1423} has been determined by the aforesaid expression 19; alternatively, however, it may be determined on the basis of the difference between $M_{1423act} + M_{14act} + M_{23act}$ (the total sum of actual node floor reaction force moments) and $M_{1423dmd}$ or the difference between the total sum of actual node floor reaction force moments and $M_{1423dmd}$, which have been respectively passed through a filter, in place of $M_{1423err}$ of the right side of expression 19.

Supplementally, in the present reference example, a node compensating floor reaction force moment has been determined without changing the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n of each node, the Q_n being the point of action. Then, the difference between the node floor reaction force compensating moment (more precisely, the resultant force of the node compensating floor reaction force moment and the moment component of the desired node floor reaction force having Q_n as its point of action) and an actual node floor reaction force moment having Q_n as its point of action has been used as a control amount to determine a node compensating angle such that the control amount approximates zero. Instead of determining the node compensating angles as described above, the node compensating angles θ_{1423} , θ_{14} and θ_{23} may be determined as follows. On each n -th node ($n=14, 23, 1423$) having child nodes, a floor reaction force central point that causes the horizontal component of the moment of the actual node floor reaction force of the n -th node (the resultant force of the actual node floor reaction forces of all child nodes of the n -th node) to become zero is determined as an actual n -th node floor reaction force central point. Alternatively, a floor reaction force central point that causes the horizontal component of a moment, which is obtained by subtracting the moment acting on the desired node floor reaction force central point of each child node due to the actual node

floor reaction force of the child node from the moment of the actual node floor reaction force of an n-th node ($n=14,23,1423$), to become zero is determined as an actual n-th node floor reaction force central point. For example, 5 the actual 14th node floor reaction force central point related to the 14th node is determined as a point obtained by shifting, on the segment $Q1Q4$, the desired 14th node floor reaction force central point by the value obtained by dividing the horizontal component of $M14_{act}$ determined 10 by the aforesaid expression 16 or 17 by the vertical component of the resultant force of $F1_{act}$ and $F4_{act}$ (the translational force component of an actual 14th node floor reaction force). The same applies to the node floor reaction force central points of the 23rd node and the 15 1423rd node. Then, the difference between the desired node floor reaction force central point of an n-th node ($n=14,23,1423$) and the actual n-th node floor reaction force central point determined as described above, or the difference between the values obtained by passing each of 20 the above node floor reaction force central points through a filter is defined as a control amount, and the node compensating angles $\theta1423$, $\theta14$ and $\theta23$ are determined on the basis of the control amount such that the control amount approximates zero (e.g., $\theta1423$, $\theta14$ and $\theta23$ are 25 determined by multiplying the control amount by a certain gain).

The corrected desired ground contact portion

position/posture calculator 114g in Fig. 17 obtains corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture by correcting the desired ground contact portion position/posture, which are the desired position and the desired posture of each ground contact portion 10, according to a technique for correcting the desired ground contact portion position/posture of the aforesaid hierarchical compliance operation (the technique explained with reference to Fig. 15 and Fig. 16) on the basis of the 1423rd node compensating angle θ_{1423} , the 14th node compensating angle θ_{14} , and the 23rd node compensating angle θ_{23} . However, in the present reference example, the distal portions of the legs #1 to #4 have free joints (spherical joints 12), and the posture of each ground contact portion 10 cannot be intentionally changed, so that the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture actually mean the corrected desired ground contact portion position.

Fig. 21 is a functional block diagram showing the processing of the aforesaid deformation compensation amount calculator 114n in Fig. 17. As shown in Fig. 21, the deformation compensation amount calculator 114n determines deformation amounts $E_{n_mdfd}(n=1,2,3,4)$, which are the deformation amounts of the legs #1 to #4 (the deformation amounts of the link mechanisms of the legs and the compliance mechanism 42), the deformation being expected to occur due to the corrected desired ground

contact portion floor reaction forces $F_{n_refmdfd}$
($n=1,2,3,4$) of the ground contact portions 10 that are
output from the compensating total floor reaction force
moment distributor 114a (the desired ground contact
5 portion floor reaction forces that have been corrected by
adding the 1423rd node compensating floor reaction force
moment $M_{1423dmd}$, the 14th node compensating floor reaction
force moment M_{14dmd} and the 23rd node compensating floor
reaction force moment M_{23dmd} to desired ground contact
10 portion floor reaction forces). The deformation amounts
 $E_{n_mdfd}(n=1,2,3,4)$ are determined by using a mechanism
compliance model showing the relationship between the
forces (or floor reaction forces) acting on the legs and
the deformations of the legs. Then, the deformation
15 compensation amount calculator 114n determines deformation
compensation amounts $E_{n_cmpn}(n=1,2,3,4)$ for canceling the
deformation amounts $E_{n_mdfd}(n=1,2,3,4)$. The deformation
compensation amount E_{n_cmpn} is determined by multiplying
each deformation amount E_{n_mdfd} by (-1) .

20 The corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture with deformation compensation calculator
114h in Fig. 17 adds a further correction to the corrected
desired ground contact portion position/posture of each
ground contact portion 10 (the position/posture determined
25 by the aforesaid corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture calculator 114g) so as to cancel the
calculated deformation amount E_{n_mdfd} , thereby obtaining

the corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture with deformation compensation of each
ground contact portion 10. The corrected desired ground
contact portion positions/postures with deformation
5 compensation are determined by adding individually
corresponding deformation compensation amounts En_cmpn to
the corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture of the ground contact portions 10.

For example, if it is calculated that a corrected
10 desired ground contact portion floor reaction force causes
the compliance mechanism 42 or the like of a leg
corresponding to a certain ground contact portion 10 to
contract by z in the vertical direction, then the
corrected desired ground contact portion floor reaction
15 force is corrected so as to lower the desired position of
the ground contact portion 10 by z . More specifically,
the corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture with deformation compensation is
calculated such that the position/posture when the ground
20 contact surface (bottom surface) of the ground contact
portion 10 after deformation compensation is deformed
under a desired ground contact portion floor reaction
force agrees with the desired position/posture of the
ground contact surface of the ground contact portion
25 before the deformation compensation. Incidentally,
detailed explanation thereof is explained in detail in
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No.

H10-277969. In the robot 1 of the present reference example, the postures of the ground contact portions 10 cannot be controlled, so that the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation calculator 114h actually corrects the corrected desired ground contact portion positions of the ground contact portions 10.

The deformation compensation described above is implemented by control for canceling in a feed-forward manner the shifts in actual ground contact portion position/posture caused by a deformation of the compliance mechanism 42 or the like. In comparison with a case where no such control is carried out, it is possible to enable the robot 1 to travel in a mode that is further closer to a desired gait.

The above has given the details of the processing of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114.

Based on the above, resuming the explanation of the flowchart in Fig. 9, compensating angles are determined as described above in S34. Fig. 22 is a flowchart showing a generalized subroutine of the processing for determining the compensating angles.

To explain with reference to the figure, first, the translational force components $F_{n_act}(n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423)$ of actual n-th node floor reaction forces are calculated on the basis of the actual floor reaction forces of the ground contact portions 10

(the actual floor reaction forces obtained by the
aforesaid actual floor reaction force detector 108). In
this case, the translational force components
Fn_act(n=1,2,3,4) of the actual node floor reaction forces
5 of the leaf nodes are the translational force components
of the detected values of the actual floor reaction forces
of the ground contact portions 10 by the aforesaid actual
floor reaction force detector 108. Further, the
translational force component Fn_act(n=14,23,1423) of the
10 actual node floor reaction force of a node that is not a
leaf node is the translational force component of the
resultant force of the actual node floor reaction forces
of the child nodes of the node, as described above.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S102 to
15 calculate an actual n-th node floor reaction force moment
Mn_act (n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423). In the robot 1 of the
first reference example, the actual node floor reaction
force moment Mn_act (n=1,2,3,4) of each leaf node is zero.
Further, the actual node floor reaction force moment
20 Mn_act(n=14,23,1423) of each node that is not a leaf node
is calculated on the basis of the aforesaid expression 16
or expression 17 from Fn_act(n=1,2,3,4) obtained in S100
and the desired node floor reaction force central point
Qn(n=1,2,3,4,14,23,1423).

25 Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S104
wherein the n-th node compensating floor reaction force
moment Mn_dmd (n=14,23,1423) is determined on the basis of

the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} determined by the aforesaid posture stabilization control calculator 104. This processing is carried out as described above by the aforesaid compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S106 to determine the vectors V_{1423} , V_{14} and V_{23} , which have been defined in the explanation of the hierarchical compliance operation, and vectors U_{1423} , U_{14} and U_{23} orthogonal thereto. In the first reference example, however, the floor reaction force moments in the directions of the vectors U_{1423} , U_{14} and U_{23} cannot be generated; therefore, it is unnecessary to determine U_{1423} , U_{14} and U_{23} .

Supplementally, as in a second reference example to be described hereinafter, if the number of child nodes of an n -th node is 3 or more, then V_n may be taken in any direction as long as it does not suddenly change timewise; hence, the direction of V_n may be appropriately determined by, for example, setting it to the direction of the X axis of a supporting leg coordinate system or the direction of the body of a robot. Further, U_n is to be orthogonal to V_n .

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S108 to extract a component M_{n_actv} in the V_n direction and a component M_{n_actu} in the U_n direction of an actual n -th node floor reaction force moment $M_{n_act}(n=14,23,1423)$. This may be accomplished by carrying out the scalar

product calculation of Mn_act and Vn and Un . Incidentally,
if the number of child nodes of an arbitrary n -th node
that is not a leaf node is two or less, as in the first
reference example, then the component Mn_actu in the Un
5 direction is zero. Hence, it is unnecessary to determine
 Mn_actu .

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S110 to
extract a component Mn_dmdv in the Vn direction and a
component Mn_dmdu in the Un direction of an n -th node
10 compensating floor reaction force moment
 $Mn_dmd(n=14,23,1423)$. This may be accomplished by
carrying out the scalar product calculation of Mn_dmd and
 Vn and Un . Incidentally, if the number of child nodes of
an arbitrary n -th node that is not a leaf node is two or
15 less, as in the first reference example, then the
component Mn_dmdu in the Un direction of the n -th node
compensating floor reaction force moment Mn_dmd is set to
zero. Alternatively, it is unnecessary to determine
 Mn_dmdu .

20 Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S112 to
determine a Vn component of an n -th node compensating
angle θ_n by multiplying the difference between a value
obtained by passing Mn_actv through a filter and a value
obtained by passing Mn_dmdv through a filter by a gain Kn
25 (more generally, according to the feedback control law
from the difference). In the first reference example,
this processing is carried out as described above on the

14th node, the 23rd node and the 1423rd node by the
aforesaid compensating angle determiners 114b, 114c and
114d.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S114 to
5 determine a U_n component of an n -th node compensating
angle θ_n by multiplying the difference between a value
obtained by passing M_n_actu through a filter and a value
obtained by passing M_n_dmdu through a filter by the gain
 K_n (more generally, according to the feedback control law
10 from the difference). However, if the number of child
nodes of an arbitrary n -th node that is not a leaf node is
two or less, as in the first reference example, then an n -
th node compensating angle U component is set to zero.
Alternatively, it is unnecessary to carry out the
15 processing of S114.

The above is the subroutine processing of S34 in
Fig. 9. Supplementally, the processing of S106 to S114
may be regarded as the processing for determining an n -th
node compensating angle such that the actual n -th node
20 floor reaction force moment acting on a desired n -th node
floor reaction force central point converges to an n -th
node compensating floor reaction force moment (more
precisely, the resultant force of the n -th node
compensating floor reaction force moment and the desired
25 node floor reaction force moment acting on the desired n -
th node floor reaction force central point).

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S36 of the

flowchart of Fig. 9 to calculate the aforesaid deformation compensation amount. This processing is carried out by the aforesaid deformation compensation amount calculator 114n as described above.

5 Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S38 to correct desired ground contact portion position/posture on the basis of the compensating angle determined in S34 and to further correct it on the basis of the deformation compensation amount determined in S36, thereby obtaining
10 the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation of each ground contact portion 10. In the first reference example, the corrected desired ground contact portion positions of the ground contact portions 10 are determined on the basis
15 of the compensating angles θ_{1423} , θ_{14} and θ_{23} as described above (as explained with reference to the aforesaid 15 and Fig. 16) by the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture calculator 114g. Then, the determined corrected desired ground contact portion positions are
20 further corrected by the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation calculator 114h on the basis of the aforesaid deformation compensation amount $En_cmpn(n=1,2,3,4)$, as described above, thereby obtaining the corrected desired ground contact
25 portion positions with deformation compensations of the ground contact portions 10.

The processing from S32 to S38 in Fig. 9 explained

above is the processing of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S40 to calculate the joint displacement command of the robot 1 from the desired body position/posture and the corrected ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation (the corrected ground contact portion position with a deformation compensation in the first reference example). This processing is carried out as described above by the aforesaid robot geometric model 110.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S42 to make an actual joint displacement follow the joint displacement command. This follow-up control (servo control) is carried out by the aforesaid displacement controller 112.

Subsequently, the processing proceeds to S44 to update time by Δt (the arithmetic processing cycle of the control system 50) and returns to S14 to repeat the processing described above.

Owing to the hierarchical compliance operation as in the first reference example explained above, the controls of node floor reaction forces hardly interfere with each other, thus allowing the node floor reaction forces to be controlled easily and properly also in a mobile robot having three or more ground contact portions. This restrains control interference and also restrains the actual floor reaction force of each node from deviating

from a desirable value or from vibrating. Thus, even if a floor surface has not only an undulation or tilt over a large area thereof but also unexpected changes in the floor configuration, including local projections or depressions or slopes, floor reaction forces acting on a legged mobile robot can be properly controlled without being influenced much by them. Moreover, control for stabilizing the posture of a mobile robot can be easily accomplished and the landing shocks to the mobile robot can be reduced, thus allowing the ground contact properties of the mobile robot to be enhanced and also preventing the mobile robot from slipping or spinning when it travels. Furthermore, the load on the actuators of the mobile robot can be reduced. Hence, the floor reaction forces of ground contact portions can be properly controlled, so that high posture stability can be obtained.

To supplement the advantages contributing to the stabilization of a posture of a robot, when the entire robot inclines from a state in which the robot is walking as expected on an expected floor surface, the relationship between an inclination angle error θ_{berr} (θ_{berrx} , θ_{berry}) and an increasing amount ΔM of the moment horizontal component about a desired total floor reaction force central point generated in response thereto is preferably a proportional relationship. If not, it is still preferred that expression 24 given below holds for a certain rotational matrix T and a certain diagonal matrix

$\text{diag}(a,b)$. Incidentally, T and $\text{diag}(a,b)$ are secondary square matrixes.

$T \cdot \Delta M = \text{diag}(a,b) \cdot T \cdot \theta_{\text{berr}}$... Expression 24

5

If these relationships are not satisfied, then there is a danger in that the inclination angle error θ_{berr} will not linearly converge to zero when the robot restores its posture from the inclined state, leading to a precession movement. For instance, in a state wherein the body of a robot inclines forward, the force (restoring force) to fall sideways other than the restoring force for returning backward excessively acts, and the inclination angle error θ_{berr} does not linearly returns to zero.

10

15 Instead, a restoring force acts toward back sideways and the inclination angle error θ_{berr} spirally converges to zero.

For the same reason as that described above, in the compliance control, the relationship between a changing rate $d\theta_{\text{berr}}/dt$ of the inclination angle error θ_{berr} of the entire robot and an increasing amount ΔM_d of the moment generated in response thereto is also preferably a proportional relationship. If not, it is still preferred that expression 25 given below holds for a certain

20

25 rotational matrix T and a certain diagonal matrix $\text{diag}(e,f)$. Incidentally, T and $\text{diag}(a,b)$ are secondary square matrixes.

$T \Delta M_d = \text{diag}(e, f) * T * d\theta_{\text{berr}}/dt$... Expression 25

5 In general, if compliance control is independently
carried out on each leg of a robot, these relationships
may not be satisfied and a precession movement may take
place. In the hierarchical compliance control shown in
the first reference example, the relationships of the
aforesaid expressions 24 and 25 can be satisfied, so that
10 the convergence of the posture control of the robot is
high and it is possible to prevent oscillation or
vibration.

15 In the aforesaid first reference example, the
desired ground contact portion positions have been amended
(corrected) so as to rotationally move about node floor
reaction force central points without changing the
postures of the ground contact portions (without
controlling the postures), thereby correcting the relative
20 heights among the ground contact portions 10 from the
relative heights among the desired ground contact portion
positions. Alternatively, however, only the heights of
the ground contact portions 10 may be corrected by moving
the desired ground contact portion positions only in the
25 vertical direction. Specifically, a desired ground
contact portion position is corrected according to the
following procedure.

First, by the following expressions 26 and 27, a vertical position correction amount Z_{14} of a desired 14th node floor reaction force central point and a vertical position correction amount Z_{23} of a desired 23rd node floor reaction force central point are determined.

$$Z_{14} = -PQ_{14} * \theta_{1423} \quad \dots \text{Expression 26}$$

$$Z_{23} = PQ_{23} * \theta_{1423} \quad \dots \text{Expression 27}$$

Here, the value determined by the aforesaid expression 19 is substituted into θ_{1423} .

Next, the vertical position correction amounts Z_n ($n=1,2,3,4$) of the desired floor reaction force central points of the ground contact portions (the desired node floor reaction force central points of leaf nodes) are determined according to the following expressions.

$$Z_1 = -Q_{14}Q_1 * \theta_{14} + Z_{14} \quad \dots \text{Expression 28}$$

$$Z_4 = Q_{14}Q_4 * \theta_{14} + Z_{14} \quad \dots \text{Expression 29}$$

$$Z_2 = -Q_{23}Q_2 * \theta_{23} + Z_{23} \quad \dots \text{Expression 30}$$

$$Z_3 = Q_{23}Q_3 * \theta_{23} + Z_{23} \quad \dots \text{Expression 31}$$

Here, the value determined by the aforesaid expression 23 is substituted into θ_{14} , and the value determined in the same manner as that for θ_{14} is substituted into θ_{23} .

The corrected desired ground contact portion positions are obtained by adding Z_1 , Z_2 , Z_3 and Z_4 determined as described above to the desired ground

contact portion positions in the vertical direction.

Further, in the aforesaid first reference example, the ground contact portions 10 have been hierarchized as shown in the aforesaid Fig. 6; however, the hierarchical structure does not necessarily have to be decided in advance to be one hierarchical structure. For example, the hierarchical structure may be changed according to the travel mode (the motion mode of legs when traveling) of the robot 1, such as trotting or galloping. For instance, the ground contact portions 10 may be hierarchized as shown in Fig. 23. Fig. 23 illustrates, as in the aforesaid Fig. 3(b), an example wherein the pair of the first ground contact portion 10 and the second ground contact portion 10 is defined as a 12th node and the pair of the third ground contact portion 10 and the fourth ground contact portion 10 is defined as a 34th node in a period during which all legs #1 to #4 of the robot 1 are all supporting legs. In this example, the desired node floor reaction force central points Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,12,34,1234$) of the nodes are set as illustrated. With this arrangement, the aforesaid compliance operation and the estimation of a floor configuration, which will be discussed later, can be performed more accurately in some cases.

[Second Reference Example]

The following will explain a second reference

example of the present invention with reference to the
aforesaid Fig. 1 and Fig. 24 to Fig. 34. Referring to Fig.
1, the explanation will be focused on the aspects of a
robot 1 of the second reference example that are different
5 from the robot of the first reference example. The robot
1 of the second reference example is provided with, in
addition to the first to the fourth legs #1 to #4, a fifth
leg #5 and a sixth leg #6 having the same structures as
those of the legs #1 to #4. This means that the robot 1
10 of the second reference example is a six-legged robot.
The fifth leg #5 is behind the third leg #3 and extended
from the right side of the body 24 of the robot 1, and the
sixth leg #6 is behind the fourth leg #4 and extended from
the left side of the body 24 of the robot 1. The rest of
15 the mechanical structure of the robot 1 is the same as
that of the first reference example, so that the like
reference numerals as those of the first reference example
will be assigned and the explanation thereof will be
omitted.

20 The basic concept of the technique of the
hierarchical compliance control of the robot 1 (six-legged
robot) of the second reference example is the same as that
of the first reference example. However, the hierarchical
compliance control of the second reference example differs
25 from that of the first reference example in that there is
a node having three child nodes and control processing is
expanded to handle them.

The following will explain the control processing of the robot 1 of the second reference example, focusing mainly on the different aspects. Regarding the reference numerals and terms used in the explanation of the second reference example, the same reference numerals and terms as those in the first reference example will be used for those that have the meanings equivalent to those in the first reference example, and detailed explanation thereof will be omitted.

Fig. 24 is a diagram for explaining the hierarchical structure in the second reference example, and it is a diagram corresponding to Fig. 3(b) in the first reference example. As shown in Fig. 24, in the second reference example, the six individual ground contact portions 10 are defined as leaf nodes (the first to the sixth nodes), and the set of all the six ground contact portions 10 is defined as a root node (the 145236th node). In addition, the set of the first, the fourth, and the fifth ground contact portions 10, which are the ground contact portions of the first leg #1, the fourth leg #4, and the fifth leg #5, is defined as a 145th node, and the set of the second, the third, and the sixth ground contact portions 10, which are the ground contact portions of the second leg #2, the third leg #3, and the sixth leg #6, is defined as a 236th node. In other words, the 145th node is an intermediate node having the first, the fourth, and the fifth nodes (three leaf nodes) as

child nodes, and the 236th node is an intermediate node having the second, the third, and the sixth node (three leaf nodes) as child nodes.

In the second reference example, for example, the set of the three ground contact portions 10 of the 145th node and the set of the three ground contact portions 10 of the 236th node are alternately lifted and landed to move the robot 1. Fig. 24 shows the state wherein both sets are landed (the state wherein both sets are supporting legs). The triangles with the reference marks Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) in the figure correspond to the positions of the ground contact portions 10.

Incidentally, Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) denotes the desired floor reaction force central point (desired node floor reaction force central point) of each of the first to the sixth ground contact portions 10, which are leaf nodes, Q_{145} and Q_{236} denote the desired floor reaction force central points (desired node floor reaction force central points) of the 145th node and the 236th node, respectively, and P denotes the desired total floor reaction force central point (= desired ZMP) as the desired floor reaction force central point (desired node floor reaction force central point) Q_{145236} of the root node (the 145236th node). As with the first reference example, Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) agrees with the central point of each corresponding ground contact portion 10.

The overall functional construction of a control

system 50 in the second reference example is the same as that shown in Fig. 2 explained in conjunction with the aforesaid first reference example.

In this case, a gait generating device 100 in the
5 second reference example determines and outputs desired motion trajectories (a desired ground contact portion trajectory and a desired body position/posture trajectory) of the robot 1 and desired floor reaction force trajectories (a desired total floor reaction force central
10 point trajectory and a desired total floor reaction force trajectory), as with that in the first reference example. In the second reference example, however, the desired ground contact portion trajectory is the trajectory of the desired ground contact portion position of each of the six
15 ground contact portions 10. If the ground contact portions are provided such that their postures are controllable, then the trajectory of desired ground contact portion postures is also included in the desired ground contact portion trajectory. Further, the desired
20 total floor reaction force central point trajectories are determined such that they continuously move while existing in a range in which ZMPs may exist at positions not excessively close to a boundary of the range (e.g., at an approximately central position of the range wherein a ZMP
25 may exist) according to the motion modes of the legs #1 to #6 (especially the positions at which supporting legs are expected to land) in the second reference example.

A desired floor reaction force distributor 102 in the second reference example determines desired node floor reaction force central points, the weights of nodes, and desired node floor reaction forces such that the following conditions A') to F') are satisfied, as with the first reference example.

A') The desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) of each leaf node agrees with the central point of the ground contact portion 10 corresponding to the leaf node. More generally, Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) is determined according to a desired gait (a desired motion, such as a desired ground contact portion trajectory). For example, if the desired floor reaction force central point of each ground contact portion 10 is determined by the gait generating device 100, then the desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) may be determined on the basis of the desired floor reaction force determined by the gait generating device 100.

B') The desired node floor reaction force central point of the root node agrees with a desired total floor reaction force central point P.

C') The desired node floor reaction force central point Q_n of an arbitrary n-th node ($n=145,236,145236$) having child nodes will be a weighted average point of the desired node floor reaction force central points of the child nodes of the n-th node. More specifically, a desired node floor

reaction force central point Q145 of a 145th node provides the internally dividing point of a triangle having, as its apexes, desired node floor reaction force central points Q1, Q4 and Q5 of the first, the fourth and the fifth nodes, which are the child nodes (leaf nodes) thereof (points on a boundary of the triangle being included), and a desired node floor reaction force central point Q236 of a 236th node provides the internally dividing point of a triangle having, as its apexes, desired node floor reaction force central points Q2, Q3 and Q6 of the second, the third and the sixth nodes, which are the child nodes (leaf nodes) thereof (points on a boundary of the triangle being included). Further, a desired node floor reaction force central point Q145236 (= desired total floor reaction force central point P) of a 145236th node (root node) provides an internally dividing point of a segment connecting the desired node floor reaction force central points Q145 and Q236 of the 145th node and the 236th node, which are the child nodes (intermediate nodes) thereof.

D') The desired node floor reaction force F_n of an arbitrary n -th node ($n=145, 236, 145236$) having child nodes agrees with the sum (resultant force) of the desired node floor reaction forces of all child nodes of the n -th node, and the desired node floor reaction force F_{145236} of the root node (the 145236th node) agrees with the desired total floor reaction force $F_{totalref}$. Alternatively, the desired node floor reaction force

$F_n(n=1,2,3,4,5,6,145,236,145236)$ of each node has the relationship of the aforesaid expression 4a or 4b with the weight of each node.

E') The desired node floor reaction force of a leaf node associated with the ground contact portion 10 not in contact with the ground is zero.

F') The desired node floor reaction force central point, the weight, and the desired node floor reaction force of each node (n -th node ($n=1,2,3,4,145,236,145236$)) continuously change.

G') The weight of a leaf node corresponding to the ground contact portion 10 in a no-contact-with-ground state or the weight of any one of the ancestor nodes of the leaf node is zero.

The weight of the root node has been set to "1" for the sake of convenience, as with the aforesaid first reference example.

The processing of a posture error calculator 103 and a posture stabilization control calculator 104 in the second reference example is the same as that in the first reference example; a compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} (M_{dmdx} , M_{dmdy}) is determined as explained in the first reference example.

An actual floor reaction force detector 108 in the second reference example detects the actual floor reaction forces acting on the ground contact portions 10 (the six ground contact portions in the present reference example)

from the outputs of six-axis force sensors 34 provided on the legs #1 to #6 and converts them into actual floor reaction forces represented by a supporting leg coordinate system (the global coordinate system shown in Fig. 1, which is fixed to a floor), as that in the first reference example.

Primarily on the basis of the final desired trajectories of ground contact portion positions and desired body position/posture, a robot geometric model (inverse kinematics calculator) 110 in the second reference example calculates joint displacement commands of the robot 1 that satisfy them by inverse kinematics calculation, as that in the first reference example.

Further, a displacement controller 112 in the second reference example controls actuators (not shown) of the joints 14 and 15 of the robot 1 so as to make actual joint displacements follow the aforesaid joint displacement commands, as that in the first reference example.

Further, a hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in the second reference example corrects the desired ground contact portion trajectories of the ground contact portions 10 so as to satisfy the aforesaid requirements 1) and 2) as much as possible, as that in the first reference example. The present reference example, however, has intermediate nodes each having three child nodes, so that the specific processing of the hierarchical

compliance operation determiner 114 is somewhat more complicated than that in the first reference example. If a robot is constructed such that the postures of the ground contact portions 10 are controllable, then the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 should correct the desired ground contact portion trajectories of the ground contact portions 10 to also satisfy the aforesaid requirement 3) as much as possible.

Fig. 25 is a block diagram showing the functions of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 of the second reference example, and it corresponds to Fig. 17 in the first reference example. Referring to Fig. 25, the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 of the second reference example is equipped with, as its components (functional means), a compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a, compensating angle determiners 114b, 114c and 114d, a corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture calculator 114g, a deformation compensation amount calculator 114n, and a corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation calculator 114h, as with the first reference example. Incidentally, in the second reference example, compensating angles include a 145236th compensating angle θ_{145236} , a 145th compensating angle θ_{145} , and a 236th compensating angle θ_{236} related to the 145236th node, the 145th node, and the 236th node, respectively, and the compensating angle determiners 114b,

114c and 114d determine 0145236, 0145, and 0236, respectively.

The following will explain the processing of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in the second reference example, focusing mainly on the aspects different from those of the first reference example.

The hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in the second reference example, as that in the first reference example, determines the translational force component and the moment component of the desired node floor reaction force of each node primarily on the basis of an output of the desired floor reaction force distributor 102, and also determines the translational force component and the moment component of the actual node floor reaction force of each node on the basis of an output of the actual floor reaction force detector 108.

More specifically, referring to Fig. 26, a translational force component $F_{n_ref}(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$ of the desired node floor reaction force of each leaf node is identical to the translational force component of the desired node floor reaction force determined by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102, and a translational force component $F_{145236ref}$ of the desired node floor reaction force of the root node is identical to a translational force component $F_{totalref}$ of the desired total floor reaction force determined by the gait generating device 100. Further, a translational force

component $F_{n_ref}(n=145,236)$ of a desired node floor reaction force of an intermediate node other than leaf nodes and the root node is determined to be the translational force component of the resultant force of the desired node floor reaction forces of the child nodes of the intermediate node ($F_{145ref}=F_{1ref}+F_{4ref}+F_{5ref}$, $F_{236ref}=F_{2ref}+F_{3ref}+F_{6ref}$). In this case, the parent node of the intermediate node is the root node, so that $F_{145ref}+F_{236ref}=F_{totalref}$. Incidentally, Fig. 26 illustrates the translational force component F_{n_ref} of the desired node floor reaction force of each node in a state wherein all the ground contact portions 10 of the robot 1 in the second reference example are in contact with the ground.

The moment component of the desired node floor reaction force of each node (more precisely, the moment component of the desired node floor reaction force using the desired node floor reaction force central point of the node as its point of action) is always set to zero.

Referring to Fig. 30, a translational force component $F_{n_act}(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$ of the actual node floor reaction force of each leaf node is identical to the translational force component of the actual floor reaction force of each ground contact portion 10 detected by the actual floor reaction force detector 108. Further, a translational force component $F_{n_act}(n=145,236,145236)$ of the actual node floor reaction force of each node having

child nodes is determined to be the translational force component of the resultant force of the actual node floor reaction forces of the child nodes of the node. Therefore, $F_{145act} = F_{1act} + F_{4act} + F_{5act}$, $F_{236act} = F_{2act} + F_{3act} + F_{6act}$,
5 $F_{145236act} (=F_{totalact}) = F_{145act} + F_{236act}$. Fig. 30 illustrates the translational force component F_{n_act} of the actual node floor reaction force of each node in the state wherein all the ground contact portions 10 of the robot 1 in the second reference example are in contact
10 with the ground.

Further, referring to Fig. 31, a moment component of the actual node floor reaction force of each leaf node (a moment component, the point of action of which is the desired node floor reaction force central point of the
15 leaf node) $M_{n_act}(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$ is basically identical to the moment component of the actual floor reaction force of each ground contact portion 10 detected by the actual floor reaction force detector 108. In the present
20 reference example, however, no actual moment occurs at the central point of each ground contact portion 10, i.e., the desired floor reaction force central point of the ground contact portion 10; therefore, the moment component of the actual node floor reaction force of each leaf node is set to zero. Further, regarding the moment component M_{n_act}
25 of the actual node floor reaction force of each n-th node ($n=145,236,145236$) that has child nodes, the resultant force of the actual node floor reaction forces of the

child nodes of the n-th node is basically determined to be the moment component (this generally does not become zero) acting on the desired node floor reaction force central point of the n-th node.

5 The compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a in the second reference example distributes the aforesaid compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} the aforesaid compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} (M_{dmdx} , M_{dmdy}) to a
10 145236th node compensating floor reaction force moment $M_{145236dmd}$, a 145th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{145dmd} , and a 236th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{236dmd} .

 The 145236th node compensating floor reaction force
15 moment $M_{1423dmd}$ is the desired value of the moment to be generated about a desired total floor reaction force central point P (desired ZMP) by the translational force component of the floor reaction force of each ground contact portion 10 generated by manipulating the 145236th
20 compensating angle θ_{145236} (by rotating the set of the first, the fourth, and the fifth ground contact portions and the set of the second, the third, and the fifth ground contact portions about a desired total floor reaction force central point $P(=Q_{145236})$ by θ_{145236}).

25 The 145th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{145dmd} is the desired value of a moment to be generated about a desired 145th node floor reaction force

central point by the translational force components of the floor reaction forces of ground contact portions 10

(specifically, the first, the fourth, and the fifth ground contact portions) generated by manipulating the 145th

5 compensating angle θ_{145} (by rotating the first, the fourth, and the fifth ground contact portions 10 belonging to the 145th node about a desired 145th node floor reaction force central point Q_{145} by θ_{145}).

10 The 236th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{236dmd} is the desired value of a moment to be generated about the desired 236th node floor reaction force central point by the translational force components of the floor reaction forces of ground contact portions 10 (specifically, the second, the third, and the sixth ground
15 contact portions) generated by manipulating the 236th compensating angle θ_{236} (by rotating the second, the third, and the sixth ground contact portions 10 belonging to the 236th node about a desired 236th node floor reaction force central point Q_{236} by θ_{236}).

20 In the present reference example, as with the first reference example, the posture of the robot 1 about the vertical axis is not controlled (because the component of the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} about the vertical axis is zero), so that $M_{145236dmd}$,
25 M_{145dmd} , and M_{236dmd} are all moments (horizontal vectors) whose components about the vertical axis are zero, and the compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} are rotational

angles about the horizontal axis. In particular,
M145236dmd is the moment about the horizontal axis
perpendicular to a segment Q145Q236.

These node compensating floor reaction force
5 moments M145236dmd, M145dmd, and M236dmd are basically
determined such that the following conditions 11) and 12)
are satisfied.

11) On the 145th node, the 236th node, and the 145236th
10 node, as defined in the aforesaid first reference example,
when corrected desired node floor reaction force central
points Q145mdfd, Q236mdfd, and Pmdfd (=Q145236mdfd) that
satisfy the relational expressions of the following
expressions 7a to 9a are introduced, these Q145mdfd,
15 Q236mdfd, and Pmdfd exist in their respective
predetermined existence permissible range.

M145236dmd=(Pmdfd-P)*Ftotalref ... Expression 7a

M145dmd=(Q145mdfd-Q145)*F145ref ... Expression 8a

20 M236dmd=(Q236mdfd-Q236)*F236ref ... Expression 9a

The existence permissible ranges of Q145mdfd,
Q236mdfd, and Pmdfd are set, for example, as shown in Fig.
29(a) in a state wherein all the ground contact portions
25 10 of the robot 1 of the second reference example are in
contact with the ground. More specifically, the existence
permissible range of Q145mdfd is the region on the

triangle in the bold line in the figure (the sides of and
the region in the triangle), and this is the region set in
the triangle, which has the desired node floor reaction
force central points Q1, Q4, and Q5 of the child nodes of
5 the 145th node as its apexes, such that it is not
excessively close to the boundary of the triangle Q1Q4Q5.
The existence permissible range of Q236mdfd is similar to
the above. Further, the existence permissible range of
Pmdfd is the region on the segment in bold line in the
10 figure, and this is the region set on a segment Q145Q236
connecting the desired floor reaction force central points
Q145 and Q236 of the child nodes of the 145236th node
(root node) such that it is not excessively close to the
end points of the segment Q145Q236.
15 12) $M_{dmd} = M_{145236dmd} + M_{145dmd} + M_{236dmd}$ is substantially
satisfied.

Further, in the present reference example, the root
node (the 145236th node) has two child nodes, so that
20 $M_{145236dmd}$ is limited to a vector in the same direction as
that of a horizontal unit vector (this being denoted by
 V_{145236}) orthogonal to the segment Q145Q236, as with each
node compensating floor reaction force moment in the
aforesaid first reference example. Hence, in the present
25 reference example, $M_{145236dmd}$, M_{145dmd} , and M_{236dmd} are
determined such that they satisfy the following condition
13).

13) The component of $M_{145236dmd} + M_{145dmd} + M_{236dmd}$ in the direction of a vector V_{145236} takes a value close to the component of M_{dmd} in the direction of the vector V_{145236} as much as possible.

$M_{145236dmd}$, M_{145dmd} , and M_{236dmd} satisfying these conditions 11) to 13) are determined, for example, as follows. First, $M_{145236dmd}$ is determined to be the component of M_{dmd} in the V_{145236} direction. However, if the corrected desired node floor reaction force central point P_{mdfd} determined by the aforesaid expression 7a does not fall within its existence permissible range, then $M_{145236dmd}$ is corrected such that P_{mdfd} becomes a point of a boundary of the existence permissible range.

Subsequently, M_{dmd145} and M_{dmd236} are determined such that the vector obtained by subtracting $M_{145236dmd}$ determined as described above from M_{dmd} substantially agrees with the sum of M_{dmd145} and M_{dmd236} , and the component of $M_{dmd145} + M_{dmd236}$ in the V_{145236} direction is close to the V_{145236} component of $M_{dmd} - M_{145236dmd}$ as much as possible and also satisfies the aforesaid condition 11). In this case, M_{dmd145} and M_{dmd236} are vectors that are parallel to each other.

Examples of $M_{145236dmd}$, M_{145dmd} , and M_{236dmd} determined as described above are shown in Fig. 29(b). Supplementally, $M_{145236dmd}$ is the horizontal vector

perpendicular to the segment Q145Q236 as described above.

If the posture of the robot 1 about the vertical axis is also controlled, the vertical components of M145236dmd, M145dmd, and M236dmd may be also determined.

5 Compensating angle determiners 114b to 114d in the second reference example basically determine node compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} on the basis of the difference between the node compensating floor reaction force moment and the actual node floor reaction
10 force moment (the moment having a desired node floor reaction force central point as the point of action) of each n-th node ($n=145236, 145, 236$) such that the difference approximates zero. The examples are shown in Fig. 30 and Fig. 31. In this case, in the present
15 reference example, θ_{145} is the angle of rotation in the same direction as the difference $M_{145act}-M_{145dmd}$ and about an axis that passes the desired 145th node floor reaction force central point Q145, as shown in Fig. 30, and θ_{236} is the angle of rotation in the same direction as the
20 difference $M_{236act}-M_{236dmd}$ and about an axis that passes the desired 236th node floor reaction force central point Q236, as shown in Fig. 30. Further, θ_{145236} is the angle of rotation in the same direction as the difference $M_{145236act}-M_{145236dmd}$ (the horizontal direction
25 perpendicular to the segment Q145Q236) and about an axis that passes the desired total floor reaction force central point P, as shown in Fig. 31.

However, in the present reference example also, as with the first reference example, the node compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} are determined on the basis of the difference between the node compensating floor reaction force moment of an n-th node ($n=145236, 145, 236$) that has been passed through a filter and the actual node floor reaction force moment thereof that has been passed through a filter.

Fig. 32 is a block diagram showing the functions of the compensating angle determiner 114b (θ_{145236} determiner) that determines the node compensating angle θ_{145236} as described above, and Fig. 33 is a block diagram showing the functions of the compensating angle determiner 114c (θ_{145} determiner) that determines the node compensating angle θ_{145} as described above. The processing of the compensating angle determiner 114d (θ_{236} determiner) is the same as the processing of the θ_{145} determiner 114b, so that it will neither be explained nor shown.

The compensating angle determiner (θ_{145236} determiner) 114b first determines the moment $M_{145236act}$ generated about the desired total floor reaction force central point P (the desired 145236th node floor reaction force central point) according to the aforesaid expression 16 or 17 if the translational force component ($F_{1act}+F_{4act}+F_{5act}$) of the resultant force of actual first, fourth, and fifth node floor reaction forces acts on the

desired 145th node floor reaction force central point Q145 and the translational force component ($F2_{act}+F3_{act}+F6_{act}$) of the resultant force of actual second, third, and sixth node floor reaction forces acts on the desired 236th node floor reaction force central point Q236. Then, a component $M145236_{actv}$ of the determined $M145236_{act}$ in the direction of a vector $V145236$ is determined by scalar product calculation. Here, the vector $V145236$ is a horizontal unit vector that is perpendicular to the segment Q145Q236. Regarding the 145236th node, it is unnecessary to determine the component of $M145236_{act}$ in a vector $U145236$ direction because the positions of the desired floor reaction force central points of the child nodes (the 145th node and the 236th node) cannot be manipulated about the axis in the direction of a horizontal unit vector $U145236$ perpendicular to $V145236$.

Subsequently, as with the first reference example, a difference $M145236_{errv}$ ($=M145236_{actvfilt}-M145236_{dmdvfilt}$) between $M145236_{actvfilt}$ obtained by passing the $M145236_{actv}$ through a low-pass filter and $M145236_{dmdvfilt}$ obtained by passing a component $M145236_{dmdv}$ of the aforesaid 145236th node compensating floor reaction force moment $M145236_{dmd}$ in the direction of a vector V through a compensation filter is multiplied by a predetermined gain $K145236$ so as to determine the 145236th node compensating angle $\theta145236$.

The compensating angle determiner ($\theta145$ determiner)

114c first calculates a moment M_{145act} generated about the 145th node floor reaction force central point Q_{145} when translational force components F_{1act} , F_{4act} , and F_{5act} of actual first, fourth, and fifth node floor reaction forces act on desired first, fourth, and fifth node floor reaction force central points Q_1 , Q_4 , and Q_5 , respectively. In this case, M_{145act} to be calculated is formed of components in the directions of vectors V_{145} and U_{145} , respectively, which are horizontal unit vectors that are orthogonal to each other. The directions of the vectors V_{145} or U_{145} may be arbitrary.

Subsequently, a difference M_{145err} ($=M_{145actfilt}-M_{145dmdfilt}$) between $M_{145actfilt}$ obtained by passing the M_{145act} through a low-pass filter and $M_{145dmdfilt}$ obtained by passing the aforesaid 145th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{145dmd} (a component in the vector V direction and a component in the vector U direction) through a compensation filter is multiplied by a predetermined gain matrix K_{145} (diagonal matrix) so as to determine the 145th node compensating angle θ_{145} . θ_{145} is constructed of an angle component about the axis of the vector V and an angle component about the axis of the vector U .

The processing for determining the 236th node compensating angle θ_{236} by the compensating angle determiner (θ_{236} determiner) 114d is carried out in the same manner as the processing of the aforesaid θ_{145}

determiner 114c.

The processing by the compensating angle determiners 114b to 114d explained above determines a set of the node compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} such that the horizontal component of the actual moment M_{act} acting on the desired total floor reaction force central point P approximates the compensating total floor reaction force moment M_{dmd} .

As supplementally explained in conjunction with the first reference example, the node compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} may be determined as follows. For each n-th node ($n=145, 236, 145236$) having child nodes, a floor reaction force central point that causes the horizontal component of the moment of the actual node floor reaction force of the n-th node (the resultant force of the actual node floor reaction forces of all child nodes of the n-th node) to be zero is determined as an actual n-th node floor reaction force central point. Alternatively, a floor reaction force central point that causes the horizontal component of the moment, which is obtained by subtracting the moment acting on a desired node floor reaction force central point of each node that is generated by the actual node floor reaction force of the node from the moment of the actual node floor reaction force of an n-th node ($n=145, 236, 145236$), to be zero is determined as an actual n-th node floor reaction force central point. Then, the difference between the desired

node floor reaction force central point of the n-th node
($n=145, 236, 145236$) and the actual n-th node floor reaction
force central point determined as described above, or the
difference between the values obtained by passing the node
5 floor reaction force central points through filters,
respectively, is defined as a control amount, and the node
compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} are determined
on the basis of the control amount (e.g., θ_{145236} , θ_{145} ,
and θ_{236} are determined by multiplying the control amount
10 by a certain gain) such that the control amount
approximates zero.

A corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture calculator 114g in the second reference
example shown in Fig. 25 corrects the desired ground
15 contact portion position/posture (actually the desired
ground contact portion position in the robot shown in Fig.
1) of each ground contact portion 10 so as to obtain
corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture.
More specifically, referring to Fig. 30 and Fig. 31, the
20 desired floor reaction force central points Q_1 , Q_4 , and Q_5
of the first, the fourth, and the fifth nodes,
respectively, which are the child nodes of the 145th node,
are rotationally moved by the 145th node compensating
angle θ_{145} (horizontal vector), the desired floor reaction
25 force central point Q_{145} of the 145th node being the
center of rotation. The Q_1 , Q_4 , and Q_5 after the
rotational movement are denoted by Q_1' , Q_4' , and Q_5' ,

respectively. Thus, the 145th node compensating angle θ_{145} is the manipulated variable for moving the relative relationship among the positions of the desired floor reaction force central points Q1, Q4, and Q4 of the first, the fourth, and the fifth nodes, which are the child nodes of the 145th node, without moving the position of the desired floor reaction force central point Q145 of the 145th node.

Similarly, the desired floor reaction force central points Q2, Q3, and Q6 of the second, the third, and the sixth nodes, respectively, which are the child nodes of the 236th node, are rotationally moved by the 236th node compensating angle θ_{236} (horizontal vector), the desired floor reaction force central point Q236 of the 236th node being the center of rotation. The Q2, Q3, and Q6 after the rotational movement are denoted by Q2', Q3', and Q6', respectively. Thus, the 236th node compensating angle θ_{236} is the manipulated variable for moving the relative relationship among the positions of the desired floor reaction force central points Q2, Q3, and Q6 of the second, the third, and the sixth nodes, which are the child nodes of the 236th node, without moving the position of the desired floor reaction force central point Q236 of the 236th node.

These rotational movements are visually shown in Fig. 30.

Subsequently, the desired floor reaction force

central points Q145 and Q236 of the 145th and the 236th nodes, which are the child nodes of the 145236th node, are rotationally moved by the 145236th node compensating angle θ_{145236} about the axial center in the same direction

5 (horizontal direction orthogonal to a segment Q145Q236) as that of the vector (horizontal vector) of the aforesaid error M145236errv, the desired floor reaction force central point P (desired total floor reaction force central point) of the 145236th node being the center of rotation. The Q145 and Q236 after the rotational movement are denoted by Q145' and Q236', respectively, as shown in Fig. 31. Thus, the 145236th node compensating angle θ_{145236} is the manipulated variable for moving the relative relationship between the positions of the desired floor reaction force central points Q145 and Q236 of the 145th and the 236th nodes, which are the child nodes of the 145236th node, without moving the position of the desired floor reaction force central point P of the 145236th node (root node).

20 Next, referring to Fig. 31, the desired node floor reaction force central points Q1', Q4', and Q5' after the previous rotational movement are moved in parallel by a vector Q145_Q145'. This provides final corrected desired node floor reaction force central points Q1'', Q4'', and Q5'' of the first, the fourth, and the fifth nodes. Similarly, the desired node floor reaction force central points Q2', Q3', and Q6' after the previous rotational movement are

moved in parallel by a vector $Q_{236_Q236'}$. This provides final corrected desired node floor reaction force central points Q_2'' , Q_3'' , and Q_6'' of the second, the third, and the sixth nodes.

5 Lastly, the desired ground contact portion position of an n-th ground contact portion ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) is moved in parallel (moved substantially vertically) by a vector Q_n_Qn'' . This corrects the desired ground contact portion position of each ground contact portion 10 (more precisely,
10 the relative relationship among the desired ground contact portion positions of the ground contact portions 10). More specifically, for each node having child nodes, the manipulated variable (correction amount) of the relative relationship (relative positional relationship) among the
15 desired ground contact portion positions of the ground contact portions 10, which are the descendant nodes of the node, is determined on the basis of the compensating angles θ_{145} , θ_{236} , and θ_{145236} , and the manipulated variables (correction amounts) are combined so as to
20 correct the mutual relative relationship among the desired ground contact portion positions of the ground contact portions 10.

 In a robot in which the postures of ground contact portions are controllable and floor reaction force moments
25 can be generated about the desired floor reaction force central points of the ground contact portions, the operation of a foot posture rotation about a desired

ground contact portion floor reaction force central point
(desired node floor reaction force central point) of each
ground contact portion may be performed by the technique
shown in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application

Publication No. H10-277969 (composite-compliance control).

More specifically, as supplementally explained in
conjunction with the first reference example, the desired
posture of the n-th ground contact portion may be
corrected about Q'' after the n-th ground contact portion
is moved in parallel as described above.

A deformation compensation amount calculator 114n
in the second reference example shown in Fig. 25
determines, as with that in the aforesaid first reference
example, a deformation compensation amount

$En_cmpn(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$ for compensating for an influence
caused by the deformation of the compliance mechanism 42
of each of the legs #1 to #6. More specifically, the
deformation compensation amount calculator 114n determines
a deformation amount $En_mdfd(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$ of the
compliance mechanism 42 or the like of each of the legs #1
to #6 that is expected to occur due to a corrected desired
ground contact portion floor reaction force

$Fn_refmdfd(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$ of each ground contact portion

(the desired ground contact portion floor reaction

force corrected by adding the node compensating floor
reaction force moments $M145236dmd$, $M145dmd$, and $M236dmd$ to
a desired ground contact portion floor reaction force)

output from the compensating total floor reaction force
moment distributor 114a in the second reference example by
using a mechanism compliance model. This En_mdfd is
multiplied by (-1) to determine the deformation
5 compensation amount En_cmpn .

The corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture with deformation compensation calculator
114h in the second reference example shown in Fig. 25
determines, as with that in the first reference example,
10 the corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture with deformation compensation by adding a
corresponding deformation compensation amount En_cmpn to
the corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture (the position/posture determined by the
15 aforesaid corrected desired ground contact portion
position/posture calculator 114g) of each ground contact
portion 10.

The above is the detailed explanation of the
processing of the hierarchical compliance operation
20 determiner 114 in the present reference example (the
second reference example).

The arithmetic processing of the control system 50
other than that explained above is the same as that of the
first reference example.

25 Incidentally, the hierarchical structure in the
second reference example may be altered according to an
operation mode (traveling mode) or the like of the robot 1,

as in the case of the first reference example. For example, the hierarchical structure may be set as shown in Fig. 34. The example in the figure is equipped with, as intermediate nodes, a 12th node having a first ground contact portion and a second ground contact portion as child nodes (leaf nodes), a 34th node having a third ground contact portion and a fourth ground contact portion as child nodes (leaf nodes), a 56th node having a fifth ground contact portion and a sixth ground contact portion as child nodes (leaf nodes), and a 3456th node having a 56th node and a 34th node as child nodes, the root node having the 3456th node and the 12th node as child nodes. This arrangement makes it possible to perform compliance operations and floor configuration estimations, which will be discussed hereinafter, more accurately in some cases. Incidentally, the meanings of the reference characters in the figure are the same as those shown mainly in the aforesaid Fig. 3(b) or Fig. 24.

[Third Reference Example]

An explanation will now be given of a third reference example in which a floor configuration estimating function and a function for correcting the operation of the robot 1 on the basis of the result of the estimation have been added to the robot 1 (six-legged robot) of the second reference example. In the present reference example, the explanation will be focused mainly

on the six-legged robot shown in the second reference example; however, supplemental explanation will be added also to a four-legged robot in some cases. In addition, for the convenience of the understanding of the present reference example, a two-legged robot will be also referred to in some cases.

The mechanical construction of the robot 1 in the present reference example is the same as that shown in Fig. 1 explained in the first or the second reference example (except that the robot 1 has six legs #1 to #6). Hence, the explanation of the mechanical construction of the robot 1 will be omitted. The functional construction of a control system 50 provided in the robot 1 in the present reference example is also the same as that shown in the aforesaid Fig. 2. In the present reference example, however, the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in Fig. 2 has newly added functions, making it different from that in the second reference example. Further, the processing of the components of the control system 50 except for the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 is the same as that of the second reference example. Thus, the explanation of the present reference example will be focused mainly on the processing of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114, and a detailed explanation of the processing of the control system 50 other than that will be omitted.

Fig. 35 is a block diagram showing the processing

functions of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in the present reference example. Of the functions, those functions that are different from those in the second reference example will be explained. A floor configuration estimator 130 as a floor configuration estimating means and an adder 132 that adds an estimated floor configuration error (more specifically, the estimated value of floor height error, which will be discussed later, related to each ground contact portion 10) output (estimated) by the floor configuration estimator 130 to corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture have been newly added to the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 in the present reference example, and outputs of the adder 132 in place of corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture are supplied to the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation calculator 114h. The rest of the processing of the components of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 is the same as the processing thereof in the second reference example.

Accordingly, the control processing of the main routine of the control system 50 in the present reference example is partly different from the control processing shown in the flowchart of the aforesaid Fig. 9. Fig. 36 is a flowchart showing the control processing of the main routine of the control system 50 in the present reference

example. As illustrated, in the present reference example, the processing for estimating a floor configuration error (the processing of the floor configuration estimator 130) in S37 is newly added following S36. Furthermore, in S38',
5 desired ground contact portion position/posture are corrected on the basis of the compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} explained in the aforesaid second reference example and the floor configuration error estimated in S37, and the desired ground contact portion position/posture
10 after the correction is further corrected on the basis of a deformation compensation amount so as to obtain corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation, which are final desired ground contact portion position/posture. In this case,
15 more specifically, corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture are determined on the basis of the compensating angles θ_{145236} , θ_{145} , and θ_{236} , as in the second reference example, then the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture are corrected on
20 the basis of a floor configuration error, and this is further corrected on the basis of a deformation compensation amount, thereby obtaining corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation. The items other than the above are the same
25 as the processing of Fig. 9.

Hereinafter, the aspects of the present reference example that are different from the second reference

example will be specifically explained.

Before starting the detailed explanation of the present reference example, the concepts and terms to be used when the floor configuration estimator 130 performs estimation will be defined as follows. In the explanation here, for the sake of convenience, schematic diagrams of an average robot, rather than limiting to the six-legged robot 1 in the present reference example, will be used.

As shown in Fig. 37, Fig. 38, and Fig. 39, a floor (or a floor surface) supposed in a desired gait is referred to as "supposed floor." An actual floor on which a robot travels is referred to as "actual floor." For the convenience of explanation, Fig. 37 shows the four-legged robot explained in the first reference example, and Fig. 38 and Fig. 39 show a two-legged robot. The meanings of the terms explained below remain the same in any multi-legged robots, including the six-legged robot 1 in the present reference example.

The desired n -th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n defined in the hierarchical compliance control explained in the aforesaid first and the second reference examples has been the point set at the central point of an n -th ground contact portion; however, the floor reaction force central point Q_n may alternatively be set on the ground contact surface (bottom surface) of the n -th ground contact portion. In this case, in the desired gait, the point on the supposed

floor surface that is supposed to be in contact with the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n is referred to as "supposed n-th floor contact point D_n ."

5 As is obvious from the definition, during the period in which the n-th ground contact portion is in contact with the ground in the desired gait of a robot, the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n and the supposed n-th floor contact
10 point D_n share the same coordinates as observed from a supporting leg coordinate system (global coordinate system). In comparison to this, the point at which the point that corresponds to the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n on the
15 bottom surface of an actual n-th ground contact portion when the robot 1 is actually traveling comes in contact with an actual floor is referred to as "actual n-th floor contact point D_{nact} ."

 Examples showing the relationships among these
20 points are shown in Fig. 37, Fig. 38, and Fig. 39. Incidentally, Fig. 37 shows a four-legged robot viewed from the direction of the normal line of a vertical plane that passes a desired first ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_1 and a desired second
25 ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_2 (that is, substantially sideways), Fig. 38 shows a traveling (walking) two-legged robot viewed from the

direction of the normal line of a vertical plane that passes the desired first ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q1 and the desired second ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q2 (that is, substantially sideways), and Fig. 39 shows a two-legged robot substantially in an upright posture viewed from the direction of the normal line of a vertical plane that passes the desired first ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q1 and the desired second ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q2 (that is, substantially from rear).

In these Fig. 37 to Fig. 39, the sections of the supposed floors in the aforesaid vertical planes are indicated by thin lines, while the sections of actual floors in the aforesaid vertical planes are indicated by thick lines. Incidentally, in Fig 37, the desired posture of the robot (the entire posture of the robot at an instantaneous value of a desired gait) and the actual posture are indicated by dashed lines and solid lines, respectively. Further, in Fig. 38 and Fig. 39, the desired postures of the robots (the entire postures of the robots at instantaneous values of desired gaits) and actual ground contact portion position/posture are indicated by thin lines and thick lines, respectively. Actual n-th floor contact points in these situations are the points on actual floor surfaces, and they are at the positions shown in Fig. 37, Fig. 38, and Fig. 39.

The error in configuration of an actual floor surface with respect to a supposed floor surface is referred to as a floor configuration error. As the indexes for quantitatively representing floor configuration errors, an n-th node floor height error and an n-th node floor inclination error are defined as follows.

The height of a floor surface at an n-th floor contact point is referred to as "n-th ground contact portion floor height." In relation to an n-th node that is a leaf, the difference between an actual n-th ground contact portion floor height and a supposed n-th ground contact portion floor height is referred to as "n-th ground contact portion floor height error" or "n-th node floor height error." The inclination of the floor surface at an n-th floor contact point is referred to as "n-th ground contact portion floor inclination." In relation to an n-th node that is a leaf, the difference between an actual n-th ground contact portion floor inclination and a supposed n-th ground contact portion floor inclination is referred to as "n-th ground contact portion floor inclination error" or "n-th node floor inclination error." An example of the ground contact portion floor inclination error is shown in Fig. 39.

With respect to all j-th nodes, which are leaf nodes, the set of node compensating angles for the relationship between desired j-th ground contact portion

position/posture and the height and inclination of a supposed j-th floor surface (specifically, the height and inclination of a supposed floor surface at a supposed j-th floor contact point) and the relationship between

5 corrected desired j-th ground contact portion

position/posture that has been corrected by a compliance operation using a set of node compensating angles and the height and inclination of an actual j-th floor surface

(specifically, the height and inclination of an actual

10 floor surface at an actual j-th floor contact point) to

agree with each other is referred to as "(the set of) node floor inclination errors)," and among these, the component

of the node floor inclination error corresponding to an n-th node compensating angle is referred to as "n-th node

15 floor inclination error." If an n-th node is a leaf node,

then the "n-th node floor inclination error" thus defined

agrees with "the n-th node floor inclination error" (= the difference between an actual n-th ground contact portion

floor inclination and a supposed n-th ground contact

20 portion floor inclination) defined in relation to the leaf nodes previously described.

After all, the set of node floor inclination errors corresponds to a compensation amount necessary to shift

all ground contact portions of a robot that is traveling

25 according to a desired gait from a state in which they are

parallel to a desired floor surface to a state in which

they are parallel to an actual floor surface.

Therefore, by estimating a floor configuration error while walking and by adding the estimated floor configuration error to desired ground contact portion position/posture, the actual floor reaction force moment of each node will be the same as that when the robot is walking on a supposed floor even if there is a floor configuration error. Naturally, the actual floor reaction force moment of the ground contact portion, which is the actual floor reaction force moment of a leaf node, agrees with a desired ground contact portion floor reaction force moment.

Normally, a floor configuration may be represented using the "n-th node floor inclination error" defined as above. If, however, a certain node has three child nodes, and the desired floor reaction force central points of the three child nodes are aligned on the same straight line or if a certain node has four or more child nodes, then it would be difficult to represent a floor configuration.

Hence, in the following explanation, the following expressions that can be generally applied will be used for n-th nodes that are not leaves. The weights used to determine a predetermined weighted average in the following definition are to be the same as the aforesaid weights determined as described above by the desired floor reaction force distributor 102.

Definition:

If the heights and inclinations of all desired ground contact portions are set to agree with the heights and inclinations of corresponding actual floor surfaces, and if the desired floor reaction force central point of an arbitrary node is expressed by a predetermined weighted average of the desired floor reaction force central points of all child nodes thereof (i.e., an internally dividing point based on a predetermined internal division ratio), then, on an arbitrary n-th node, the height obtained by subtracting the height (the position in the vertical direction) of the desired floor reaction force central point of a parent node of the n-th node from the height (the position in the vertical direction) of the desired floor reaction force central point of the n-th node is referred to as "actual n-th node relative floor height."

Definition:

If the heights and inclinations of all desired ground contact portions are set to agree with the heights and inclinations of corresponding supposed floor surfaces, and if the desired floor reaction force central point of an arbitrary node is expressed by a predetermined weighted average of the desired floor reaction force central points of all child nodes thereof (i.e., an internally dividing point based on a predetermined internal division ratio), then, on an arbitrary n-th node, the height obtained by subtracting the height (the position in the vertical

direction) of the desired floor reaction force central point of a parent node of the n-th node from the height (the position in the vertical direction) of the desired floor reaction force central point of the n-th node is referred to as "supposed n-th node relative floor height."

The height obtained by subtracting a supposed n-th node relative floor height from an actual n-th node relative floor height is referred to as an "n-th node relative floor height error." The n-th node relative floor height error will take the same value when defined as follows.

Definition:

If the heights and postures of all desired ground contact portions are made to agree with corresponding ground contact portion floor height errors and ground contact portion floor inclination errors, and the desired floor reaction force central point of an arbitrary node is expressed by a predetermined weighted average of the desired floor reaction force central points of all child nodes thereof (i.e., an internally dividing point based on a predetermined internal division ratio), then, on an arbitrary n-th node, the height obtained by subtracting the desired floor reaction force central point height of a parent node of the n-th node from the desired floor reaction force central point height of the n-th node is referred to as "n-th node relative floor height error."

As is obvious from the definition of the n-th node relative floor height error described above, regarding each node having child nodes, the n-th node relative floor height errors of all child nodes thereof represent the relative relationship of floor height errors. Further, regarding each node having child nodes, the weighted average value of all child nodes thereof is zero.

In the present reference example (the third reference example), the difference between an actual floor surface and a supposed floor surface on a desired gait (i.e., a floor configuration error) is compensated so as to correct the desired positions/postures of ground contact portions 10 to make the ground contact portions 10 that are to be in contact with the ground properly come in contact with the actual floor surface. Further, in the present reference example, the n-th node relative floor height error defined as described above is used as a floor configuration parameter representing a floor configuration error, and based on this, each n-th ground contact portion floor height error (floor configuration error) is estimated. Then, based on each estimated n-th ground contact portion floor height error (hereinafter referred to simply as the n-th floor height error in some cases), the desired position of the n-th ground contact portion 10 is corrected.

Based on the above premise, essential sections of the present reference example will be explained in detail.

The inputs into the floor configuration estimator
130 of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner
114 shown in Fig. 35 are, in general, roughly divided as
follows.

- 5 1) Desired floor reaction force central points (desired
total floor reaction force central points P and desired n -
th ground contact portion floor reaction force central
points $Q_n(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$).
- 2) Supposed floor surface configuration (coordinates of
10 supposed n -th floor contact points and supposed n -th
ground contact portion floor inclinations).
- 3) Final desired postures to be followed by an actual
robot (corrected desired ground contact portion
positions/postures with deformations) or actual joint
15 displacements or frequency weighted average thereof
(weighted average based on a weight having a frequency
characteristic).
- 4) Body posture inclination errors.
- 5) Actual floor reaction forces (the translational force
20 component and the moment component of an actual n -th
ground contact portion floor reaction force).

Incidentally, in the robot 1 in the present
reference example, the postures of the ground contact
portions 10 cannot be controlled, so that the supposed n -
25 th ground contact portion inclination of a supposed floor
surface configuration is unnecessary.

Further, in the robot 1 in the present reference

example, the moment component of an actual n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force of an actual floor reaction force is zero. This, therefore, is not required to be supplied to the floor configuration estimator 130.

5 However, in the explanation of the present reference example hereinafter, the n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force generally includes the moment component of an actual n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force also, considering a case where the postures of the ground
10 contact portions 10 are controllable. Further, in the following explanation, the total number of ground contact portions will be frequently referred to as "last leaf node number" so as to make it possible to expandably apply the present reference example easily also to a case where the
15 number of ground contact portions is other than four or six. For example, in the six-legged robot 1 shown in Fig. 1, the last leaf node number is "6".

Fig. 40 is a block diagram showing the processing functions of the floor configuration estimator 130. The
20 functional elements constituting the floor configuration estimator 130 shown in Fig. 40 will be explained. The floor configuration estimator 130 is equipped with a mechanism compliance model 134.

The mechanism compliance model 134 determines the
25 deformation amount of a compliance mechanism 42 or the like of each of the legs #1 to #6 (the compliance mechanism 42 and a link mechanism of each leg) when each

of the ground contact portions 10 is subjected to an actual floor reaction force $F_{n_act}(n=1,2,..., \text{last leaf node number})$, and adds the determined deformation amount to the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation, which are supplied to the
5 aforesaid robot geometric model 110 (refer to Fig. 2), so as to determine estimated n-th ground contact portion position/posture ($n=1,2, ..., \text{last leaf node number}$), which are the estimated values of the position/posture of an n-
10 th ground contact portion (each ground contact portion) after mechanism deformation (more specifically, the estimated values of the n-th ground contact portion position/posture when it is assumed that an actual body posture agrees with a desired body posture). Incidentally,
15 the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation used in this case are the past values of the values or the like determined at the last control cycle.

When determining the estimated ground contact
20 portion position/posture after mechanism deformation, if a follow-up delay of control of a joint displacement of the robot 1 cannot be ignored, then the position/posture obtained by passing corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation
25 through a low-pass filter corresponding to the follow-up delay may be used instead of using the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation

compensation as it is.

Alternatively, from a detected value of an actual joint displacement of the robot 1, actual ground contact portion position/posture without mechanism deformation, which are actual ground contact portion position/posture in a case where there is no mechanism deformation, are determined through a robot geometric model (the same model as the robot geometric model 110 in Fig. 2), and the determined values may be used in place of the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation.

Alternatively, a weighted average of the aforesaid actual ground contact portion position/posture without mechanism deformation and the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation may be determined by using a frequency weight (weight having a frequency characteristic), and this may be used in place of the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation.

Strictly speaking, the actual ground contact portion position/posture without mechanism deformation mentioned above should be used; however, any one of the above may be used with a result indicating no significant difference as long as the capability of joint displacement control is high.

Incidentally, the mechanism compliance model 134 is explained in detail in Japanese Unexamined Patent

Application Publication No. H10-277969 previously proposed by the present applicant; therefore, no more explanation will be given herein.

Supplementally, in a case where an input to the robot geometric model 110 in Fig. 2 does not include deformation compensation, that is, if corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture without deformation compensation (the position/posture determined by the aforesaid corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture calculator 114g) is supplied to the robot geometric model 110, then the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture without deformation compensation may be supplied to the mechanism compliance model 134 of the floor configuration estimator 130.

Returning to the explanation of Fig. 40, the estimated ground contact portion position/posture after mechanism deformation ($n=1,2,\dots,6$) is then rotationally moved by the aforesaid body posture inclination error θ_{berr} , the desired total floor reaction force central point P being the center of the rotation, thereby to determine n-th estimated ground contact portion position/posture after mechanism deformation ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number}$) observed from a global coordinate system (supporting leg coordinate system). Subsequently, the position of the point corresponding to the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point after the mechanism deformation

observed from the global coordinate system is determined on the basis of the n-th estimated ground contact portion position/posture after the mechanism deformation (n=1,2,...,last leaf node number) observed from the global coordinate system and the position of the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point observed from the desired ground contact portion position of an n-th ground contact portion (the desired position of the representative point of the n-th ground contact portion). Then, the determined position of the point is defined as an instantaneous estimated floor contact point position (instantaneous estimated n-th floor contact point position) $Q_{n_estm'}$. This $Q_{n_estm'}$ corresponds to the estimated value of the instantaneous position of an actual n-th floor contact point. The method for determining the instantaneous estimated floor contact point position $Q_{n_estm'}$ are equivalent to determining Q'' of expression 21 in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969, so that no further explanation thereof will be given herein.

Subsequently, the supposed n-th floor contact point position D_n is subtracted from the instantaneous estimated n-th floor contact point position $Q_{n_estm'}$ to obtain a bias-included instantaneous n-th ground contact portion floor height error $Z_{fn_with_bias'}$. This $Z_{fn_with_bias'}$ corresponds to the instantaneous estimated value of an n-th ground contact portion floor height error. In a case

where no actual height of a body is detected, as with the present reference example, a bias error is usually included. Hence, $Z_{fn_with_bias'}$ is referred to as the bias-included instantaneous n-th ground contact portion floor height error.

Here, as previously defined, the supposed n-th floor contact point D_n lies at the same position as a desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n in a period during which an n-th ground contact portion is in contact with the ground. In a desired gait, immediately before an n-th ground contact portion comes in contact with the ground, the position of the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n that is expected for the next ground contact is defined as the supposed n-th floor contact point D_n . In the desired gait, immediately after the n-th ground contact portion leaves a floor, the position of the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n that was expected at the time of leaving the floor is defined as the supposed n-th floor contact point D_n .

Subsequently, an estimated n-th node floor height error Z_{fn_estm} ($n=1, 2, \dots, \text{last leaf node number}$) is determined by the floor height error estimation processing subroutine shown by the flowchart of Fig. 41 on the basis of the bias-included instantaneous n-th ground contact portion floor height error $Z_{fn_with_bias'}$ ($n=1, 2, \dots, \text{last}$

leaf node number) and the n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force F_{n_act} ($n=1, 2, \dots, \text{last leaf node number}$).

Here, "hierarchical relativization processing" (or
5 "hierarchical relativization") used in the floor height error estimation processing subroutine or the like will be explained.

The hierarchical relativization processing is generally defined as the processing for determining the
10 output values of all nodes relative to the sets of input values (the values of predetermined types of state amounts) for all leaf nodes. More specifically, the hierarchization relativity processing is the processing for determining node output values such that the weighted
15 average of output values corresponding to all child nodes of an arbitrary node that is not a leaf node is zero and the input value (state amount) of an arbitrary leaf node agrees with the sum of the output value of the node and the output values of all ancestor nodes of the node.

20 Hereinafter, determining the value of a certain type of output BB by the hierarchical relativization processing from a certain type of input (state amount) AA for a leaf node will be referred to as "determining BB by hierarchically relativizing AA."

25 The following will explain the algorithm of the hierarchical relativization processing. In general, an input of the hierarchical relativization processing is an

n-th ground contact portion height Z_{fn} (n denoting a leaf node number) and an output thereof is an n-th node relative height Z_{n_rel} ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number}$).

Incidentally, the "last node number" means the largest

5 number among all node numbers; for example, in the hierarchical structure explained in the second reference example, the last node number = 145236. Further, in the explanation of the algorithm, the "n-th ground contact portion height" is a designation that generically

10 represents an input of the hierarchical relativization processing, such as the aforesaid n-th ground contact portion floor height or an n-th ground contact portion floor height error, and the "n-th node relative height" is a designation that generically represents an output of the hierarchical relativization processing, such as an n-th
15 ground contact portion relative floor height error, which will be discussed later.

First, a bias-included n-th node height $Z_{n_with_bias}$ is determined as follows. If an n-th node is
20 a leaf node (i.e., a ground contact portion), then the value of an n-th ground contact portion height Z_{fn} is substituted into the bias-included n-th node height $Z_{n_with_bias}$. If the n-th node is not a leaf node (i.e., a ground contact portion), then the weighted average of
25 the bias-included n-th node heights $Z_{n_with_bias}$ of all child nodes of the n-th node is determined, and this determined weighted average is defined as the bias-

included n-th node height Z_n with bias. It should be noted that a weight W_j ($j=1,2,\dots$) determined by the aforesaid desired floor reaction force distributor 102 is used as the weight for each child node.

More specifically, the bias-included n -th node height Z_n with bias is obtained by expression 32 given below.

If the n -th node is a leaf node, then

10 Zn_with_bias=Zfn

If the n -th node is not a leaf node, then

$$Z_n \text{ with bias} = \sum (Z_j \text{ with bias} * W_j)$$

where Σ denotes the total sum on j , which is $j \in \{\text{set of child node numbers of the } n\text{-th node}\}$

15 ... Expression 32

According to the above rules, the bias-included node height $Z_n_with_bias$ ($n=1,2,\dots,$ last node number) is determined on every node.

20 Lastly, an n-th node relative height Z_{n_rel} is
determined by subtracting the bias-included height
 $Z_{h_with_bias}$ of a parent node (this is supposed to be an
h-th node) of the n-th node from the bias-included n-th
node height Z_n with bias.

25 More specifically, the n-th node relative height
Zn_rel is determined according to the following expression
33. It should be noted that the h-th node is the parent

node of the n-th node.

$Zn_rel = Zn_with_bias - Zh_with_bias$... Expression 33

5 According to the above rule, the node relative
floor height Zn_rel (n denoting the number of each node) is
determined on every node. It should be noted that a node
relative height Zk_rel (k denoting the number of a root
node) with respect to a root node is zero. Fig. 42 shows
10 an example of calculation of a node relative height of a
four-legged robot shown in the first reference example,
while Fig. 43 shows an example of calculation of a node
relative height of the six-legged robot in the present
reference example.

15 The bias-included n-th node height $Zn_rel_with_bias$
may alternatively be determined by the following method,
which provides the same results.

 If an n-th node is a leaf node (i.e., a ground
contact portion), then the value of an n-th ground contact
20 portion height Zfn is substituted into the bias-included
n-th node height Zn_with_bias . If the n-th node is not a
leaf node (i.e., a ground contact portion), then the
weighted average of the bias-included heights of the leaf
nodes of all descendants of the n-th node is determined,
25 and this determined weighted average is defined as the
bias-included n-th node height Zn_with_bias . It should be
noted that a weight Wj' for each leaf node j is the

product of the weight W_j determined for the node j by the
aforesaid desired floor reaction force distributor 102 and
the weight determined by the aforesaid desired floor
reaction force distributor 102 for an ancestor node of the
5 node j and all nodes, which are the descendant nodes of
the n -th node.

More specifically, the bias-included n -th node
height Z_n with bias is obtained by expression 34 given
below.

10

If the n -th node is a leaf node, then

$$Z_n \text{ with bias} = Z_{fn}$$

If the n -th node is not a leaf node, then

$$Z_n \text{ with bias} = \Sigma (Z_j \text{ with bias} * W_j')$$

15

where Σ denotes the total sum on j , which is $j \in \{\text{set of leaf node numbers of the descendants of a node } n\}$

... Expression 34

20

Supplementally, the weight W_j' in this case agrees
with the value obtained by dividing the desired floor
reaction force of each leaf node by a desired j -th node
floor reaction force if the desired j -th node floor
reaction force is not zero.

25

The above is the hierarchical relativization
processing.

The subroutine processing of the estimation
processing of a floor height error will now be explained

below by mainly using the flowchart of Fig. 41 showing it. Incidentally, this processing uses an n-th ground contact portion floor height error as an input of the hierarchical relativization processing, and an n-th node relative floor height error as an output. The like symbols as those shown in the aforesaid expressions 32 to 34 or the like will be used as the reference symbols of these input and output.

Referring to Fig. 41, first, in S50, the aforesaid bias-included instantaneous n-th ground contact portion floor height error $Z_{fn_with_bias}'$ is hierarchically relativized to determine an instantaneous n-th node relative floor height error Z_{n_rel}' ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number}$).

Subsequently, in S52, the output obtained by hierarchically relativizing an estimated n-th ground contact portion floor height error, which is an estimated value of the n-th ground contact portion floor height error determined at the last control cycle of the control system 50 (hereinafter referred to as the last estimated n-th ground contact portion floor height error $Z_{fn_estm_p}$), is determined as the last estimated n-th node relative floor height error $Z_{n_rel_estm_p}$ ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number}$). It should be noted that, as the weight of each node used in this hierarchical relativization processing, the weight W_n ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number}$) determined by the aforesaid desired floor reaction force distributor 102 at

the current (present) control cycle of the control system
50 is used.

Supplementally, in general, if the weight
determined in the current control cycle (hereinafter
5 referred to as the current weight) and the weight
determined in the last control cycle (hereinafter referred
to as the last weight) are different, then the value of
the last estimated relative floor height error of each
node determined using the last weight and the value of the
10 last estimated relative floor height error of each node
determined using the current weight will be inconveniently
different values even if the configuration of an actual
floor does not change. Hence, the last estimated node
relative floor height error of each node is calculated
15 anew by using the current weight as described above
instead of directly using the estimated relative floor
height error of each node determined at the last control
cycle as the last estimated node relative floor height
error of each node.

20 Subsequently, in S54, an n-th node relative floor
height error correction amount candidate value
 $Zn_inc_cand(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number})$ is determined
according to expression 35 given below. The Zn_inc_cand
means the provisional value of the correction amount of
25 the error when the n-th node relative floor height error
is updated at the current control cycle.

In this case, the n-th node relative floor height

error correction amount candidate value Zn_inc_cand is set to the product of the difference between the instantaneous n-th node relative floor height error Zn_rel' and the last estimated n-th node relative floor height error

5 $Zn_rel_estm_p$ and a predetermined coefficient $(\Delta T / (Testm + \Delta T))$, as shown by expression 35 given below.

$$Zn_inc_cand = (Zn_rel' - Zn_rel_estm_p) \\ * \Delta T / (Testm + \Delta T)$$

10 ... Expression 35

where $Testm$ in expression 35 denotes a time constant (the time constant of a primary delay) at the estimation (update) of an n-th node floor height error, and ΔT denotes a control cycle of the control system 50.

15 Thus, when Zn_inc_cand is set, Zn_inc_cand is added to $Zn_rel_estm_p$ for each control cycle of the control system 50, causing the value of the result of the addition to change so as to gradually approximate Zn_rel' .

20 Subsequently, in S56, a node request mode (an n-th request mode mdn_dmd), which is a required value of the mode of each node, is determined on the basis of a timing of a desired gait.

Specifically, in the aforesaid six-legged robot 1, an n-th node request mode ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$), a 145th node request mode $md145dmd$, a 236th node request mode $md236dmd$, and a 145236th node request mode $md145236dmd$ are set as shown in the timing chart of Fig. 44 with respect to the

elapse of time of a desired gait, and a current request mode is determined on the basis thereof. However, if the gait is different, then the pattern of a node request mode should be changed accordingly. Incidentally, regarding
5 ON/OFF in the timing charts of a first stage (the uppermost stage) and a second stage in Fig. 44, the state in which a ground contact portion is in contact with the ground corresponds to ON, while the state in which it is not in contact with the ground corresponds to OFF.

10 Supplementally, as the present applicant has disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969, in the case of a robot that has feet as ground contact portions and that is capable of estimating floor inclination errors at the ground contact
15 portions, the request mode corresponding to the floor inclination error estimation of the ground contact portions should be set as explained in the Publication.

As shown in Fig. 44, the mode of each node (hereinafter referred to simply as the node mode) comes in
20 ready mode, hold mode, and reset mode.

The ready mode is the mode for estimating a floor configuration. The hold mode is the mode for holding the estimated value of the floor configuration (an estimated n-th ground contact portion floor height error) (for
25 maintaining an immediately preceding value). The hold mode is made to exist in a period during which the estimated value of a floor configuration may diverge and a

period during which the accuracy of the estimated value of the floor configuration may deteriorate. Further, the reset mode is the mode for shifting the estimated value of the floor configuration to a predetermined initial value before the next floor configuration estimation is started (the next ready mode begins).

Regarding an n -th node ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) that is a leaf node, if an n -th ground contact portion is in contact with the ground on a desired gait (that is, if a desired n -th ground contact portion floor reaction force is not zero), then the n -th node request mode is set to the ready mode. Thereafter, when the n -th ground contact portion leaves a floor on the desired gait (that is, when the desired n -th ground contact portion floor reaction force becomes zero), the n -th node request mode is set to the hold mode immediately thereafter. Then, after a while, the n -th node request mode is set to the reset mode. Further, immediately before the n -th ground contact portion comes in contact with the ground on the desired gait, the n -th node request mode is set to the ready mode.

Regarding an n -th node ($n=145,236,145236$) that is not a leaf node, that is, an n -th node having child nodes, if at least one ground contact portion belonging to the n -th node is in contact with the ground on the desired gait, then the n -th node request mode is set to the ready mode. Thereafter, when all ground contact portions belonging to the n -th node leave the floor on the desired gait, then

the n-th node request mode is set to hold until immediately thereafter. Alternatively, the n-th node request mode may be set to the hold mode from immediately before all the ground contact portions belonging to the n-th node leave the floor. Then, after a while, the n-th node request mode is set to the reset mode. Further, immediately before at least one of the ground contact portions belonging to the n-th node comes in contact with the ground on the desired gait, the n-th node request mode is set to the ready mode.

Subsequently, in S58, it is determined whether an estimation enable condition is satisfied, and the mode of each node is finally determined on the basis of the result of the determination and the node request mode. The mode of each node to be determined is one of the aforesaid ready mode, hold mode, and reset node. The aforesaid node request mode has been determined on the basis of whether the ground contact portions are in contact with the ground or not on the desired gait. In S58, the mode of each node is determined, considering whether the ground contact portions are actually in contact with the ground or not.

The estimation enable condition is satisfying either expression 36 or 37 given below. In this case, if neither expression 36 or 37 is satisfied, then the estimation enable condition does not hold.

$$F_{n_act_z} > F_{n_min}$$

... Expression 36

$$Zn_rel' < Zn_rel_estm_p \quad \dots \text{Expression 37}$$

where Fn_act_z denotes the translational force
vertical component of an actual n-th ground contact
5 portion floor reaction force ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node}$
number).

The estimation enable condition is a condition
under which, when an n-th node relative floor height error
10 is estimated (when a floor configuration error is
estimated), the estimated value does not diverge. The
divergence here means a situation in which, when a
correcting operation is performed to modify corrected
desired ground contact portion position/posture so as to
15 offset the influence of an actual n-th floor height error
by using an estimated n-th floor height error Zfn_estm
(the estimated value of the floor configuration error)
that has been estimated as it will be discussed later, the
estimated n-th floor height error Zfn_estm continues to
20 increase and an n-th ground contact portion moves away
from the floor (floats further from the floor).

If the estimation of Zfn_estm is ideally executed,
a predetermined permissible value Fn_min may be zero,
whereas in actuality, a detection error of Fn_act takes
25 place, causing an estimated value to diverge in some cases.
To prevent it, Fn_min is set to be a value that is
sufficiently larger than a detection error of Fn_act .

In the present reference example, the estimation enable condition is the condition under which divergence described above does not occur. However, the estimation enable condition may alternatively be a condition under which a required accuracy of estimating a floor configuration can be secured. Hence, in place of the translational force vertical component of the actual n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force F_{n_act} , a component that is perpendicular to a supposed floor surface (or an estimated floor surface (estimated actual floor surface)) out of the translational force components of the actual n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force F_{n_act} may be used.

Incidentally, if a floor configuration error (a configuration error between an actual floor surface and a supposed floor surface) is simply estimated and not reflected in a walking operation, that is, if the correction of the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture to cancel the influence of a floor configuration error is not carried out by using an estimated value of the floor configuration error, then the estimated value of the floor configuration error does not diverge.

The mode of each node is determined on the basis of the result of the determination on whether the estimation enable condition is satisfied and a node request mode.

If an n-th node request mode is the ready mode and the estimation enable condition is satisfied, then the n-th node mode is set to the ready mode.

5 If an n-th node request mode is the ready mode and the estimation enable condition is not satisfied, then the n-th node mode is set to the hold mode.

If an n-th node request mode is the hold mode, then the n-th node mode is set to the hold mode.

10 If an n-th node request mode is the reset mode, then the n-th node mode is set to the reset mode.

15 Thus, the mode of an n-th node is determined to be the ready mode at the end only if the request mode is the ready mode and the estimation enable condition is satisfied.

Subsequently, in S60 to S70, on all nodes, the n-th node relative floor height error ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number}$) associated with each node is estimated.

20 Supplementally, as disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969, in the case of a robot that has ground contact portions (feet) whose postures can be controlled and that is capable of estimating the floor inclination errors in the ground contact portions, it is preferred to also estimate the
25 floor inclination errors associated with the ground contact portions.

Therefore, the processing of S60 to S70 is

configured so as to allow floor configuration errors to be estimated also when the postures of ground contact portions can be controlled.

The following will specifically explain the processing of S60 to S70. In S62, the quantity of child nodes of an n-th node is determined. At this time, if the number of child nodes (the quantity of child nodes) is two, then the floor configuration estimation processing for a two-child node, which is the estimation processing of the floor configuration error for the quantity, is carried out in S64. If the number of child nodes is three, then the floor configuration estimation processing for a three-child node, which is the estimation processing of the floor configuration error for the quantity, is carried out in S66. If the number of child nodes is zero, then it is determined in S68 whether the n-th node ground contact portion permits the control of a floor reaction force moment.

The processing for the case where the number of child nodes is zero will be further explained. If the number of child nodes of an n-th node is zero, then the n-th node is a leaf node, and the n-th node corresponds to a ground contact portion. In this case, as described above, first, it is determined in S68 whether the n-th ground contact portion permits the control of a floor reaction force moment. Here, for example, in the case of a robot that has feet whose postures can be controlled as ground

contact portions and its legs do not include free joints,
as with a regular bipedal walking robot, floor reaction
force moments can be generated at the ground contact
portions. However, in the robot 1 (six-legged robot) in
5 the present reference example, the ground contact portions
10 engage the spherical joints 12, which are free joints;
therefore, none of the ground contact portions 10 can
generate floor reaction force moments. In this case, no
processing is carried out on the n-th node whose number of
10 child nodes is zero.

Meanwhile, if it is determined in S68 that floor
reaction force moments can be controlled, then ground
contact portion floor inclination error estimation
processing is carried out in S70. This processing is the
15 processing for estimating the floor inclination error in
each ground contact portion. This processing is the
processing in which the foot floor reaction force central
point in the floor inclination estimation processing in
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No.
20 H10-277969 previously proposed by the present applicant
has been replaced by the desired floor reaction force
central point of an n-th ground contact portion in the
present reference example. Hence, further detailed
explanation will be omitted in the present description.

25 Next, the aforesaid floor configuration estimation
processing for a two-child node will be explained with
reference to Fig. 45 to Fig. 48. Fig 45 is a flowchart

showing the subroutine processing of the floor
configuration estimation processing for a two-child node,
Fig. 46 and Fig. 47 are flowcharts showing the subroutine
processing of S6404 and S6408, respectively, of Fig. 45,
5 and Fig. 48 is a flowchart showing the subroutine
processing of S6406 and S6410 of Fig. 45.

In the floor configuration estimation processing
for a two- child node, the modes of all child nodes of an
n-th node having two child nodes (the mode determined in
10 S58 of Fig. 41) are determined in S6400, as shown in the
flowchart of Fig. 45. The results of the determination
are divided into three, namely, "all ready," "all reset,"
and "others (else)." In the following explanation, the
two child nodes of the n-th node will be denoted as the i-
15 th node and the j-th node.

Here, if it is determined that the modes of the
child nodes are "all ready," then it is determined in
S6402 whether a resultant force F_{n_z} ($=F_{i_act_z}+F_{j_act_z}$)
of the translational force vertical components $F_{i_act_z}$
20 and $F_{j_act_z}$ of the actual node floor reaction forces of
the child nodes of the n-th node is larger than a
predetermined value F_{n_min2} . In other words, F_{n_z} denotes
the translational force vertical component of the
resultant force of the actual floor reaction forces of all
25 ground contact portions belonging to the n-th node.

If the determination result of S6402 is YES, then
intra-group all estimation processing for a node having

two child nodes (the processing for virtually estimating the node relative floor height error of each of the two child nodes owned by the n-th node) is carried out in S6404. In this processing, estimated node relative floor height errors $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ and $Z_{j_rel_estm}$ of the i-th node and the j-th node, respectively, which are the two child nodes of the n-th node, are determined (updated) according to the expressions shown in the flowchart of Fig. 46. More specifically, $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ will be representatively explained. A j-th node relative floor height error correction amount candidate value $Z_{i_inc_cand}$ determined in the aforesaid S54 is added to a value $Z_{i_rel_estm_p}$ of $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ in the last control cycle thereby to determine a new estimated j-th node relative floor height error $Z_{i_rel_estm}$. The same applies to the j-th node.

Further, if the resultant force F_{n_z} of the floor reaction forces of the two child nodes of the n-th node is smaller than the predetermined value F_{n_min2} (if the determination result of S6402 is NO), then it means that the accuracy of estimating a floor configuration error would be excessively deteriorated, so that no substantial estimation processing is carried out, and the intra-group all hold processing for a node having two child nodes (the processing for holding the estimated node relative floor height errors of the two child nodes of the n-th node without updating them) is carried out in S6406. In the hold processing, as shown by the expressions in the

flowchart of Fig. 48, the values of the estimated node relative floor height errors $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ and $Z_{j_rel_estm}$ of the i-th node and the j-th node, respectively, are maintained at the values $Z_{i_rel_estm_p}$ and $Z_{j_rel_estm_p}$ of the last control cycle.

Next, if it is determined in S6400 of Fig. 45 that the modes of the two child nodes are "all reset," then intra-group all reset processing for a node having two child nodes (the processing for resetting the estimated node relative floor height error of each of the two child nodes owned by the n-th node) is carried out in S6408. In the reset processing, the estimated node relative floor height errors $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ and $Z_{j_rel_estm}$ of the i-th node and the j-th node, respectively, are updated according to the expressions in the flowchart of Fig. 47 such that they gradually approximate zero. Incidentally, the meanings of ΔT and T_{estm} in the expressions are the same as those of the aforesaid expression 35.

More generally speaking, the reset processing is the processing in which $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ and $Z_{j_rel_estm}$ are determined to take values that are closer to zero than $Z_{i_rel_estm_p}$ and $Z_{j_rel_estm_p}$ are, while satisfying a condition in which the weighted average value of $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ and $Z_{j_rel_estm}$ is zero, that is,

$$W_i * Z_{i_rel_estm} + W_j * Z_{j_rel_estm} = 0.$$

Incidentally, the reset processing includes a primary delay element, so that infinite time is required for the node relative floor

height errors to completely return to zero. Hence, a finite stabilization function generator previously proposed by the present applicant (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H5-324115) may be used to gradually reset the node relative floor height errors to zero.

Further, if the modes of the two child nodes are "others," that is, if the modes are neither "all ready" nor "all reset" in S6400 of Fig. 45 (for example, if the modes of the two child nodes are all hold modes), then the same processing as that of S6406 (refer to Fig. 48) is carried out in S6410.

As described above, only in a case where the modes of the two child nodes of the n-th node are all ready and there is no danger in that the divergence takes place in the processing of estimating node relative floor height errors, the substantial estimation processing of the node relative floor height errors of the two child nodes is carried out. And, even if the modes of the child nodes are all ready, if there is a danger of the occurrence of divergence in estimation processing, then the values of the estimated node relative floor height errors of the two child nodes are held. Further, in a situation wherein the actual node floor reaction forces of the two child nodes are both zero, that is, if no actual floor reaction forces act on every ground contact portions 10 belonging to an n-th node, then the node relative floor height errors of the

two child nodes are reset so that they are gradually reset to zero.

Referring now to Fig. 49 to Fig. 55, the three-child node floor configuration estimation processing of S66 of Fig. 41 will be explained. Fig. 49 is a flowchart showing the subroutine processing of the three-child node floor configuration estimation processing, Fig. 50 and Fig. 51 are flowcharts showing the subroutine processing of S6604 and S6608 of Fig. 49, Fig. 52 is a flowchart showing the subroutine processing of S6606, S6614, and S6618 of Fig. 49, and Fig. 53 and Fig. 54 are flowcharts showing the subroutine processing of S6612 and S6616, respectively, of Fig. 49.

In the three-child node floor configuration estimation processing, as shown in the flowchart of Fig. 49, the modes of all child nodes of an n-th node having three child nodes (the modes determined in S58 of Fig. 41) are determined in S6600. The determination results are divided into six, namely, "all ready," "all reset," "only two child nodes are ready," "only one child node is hold, and the remaining ones are reset," "only two child nodes are hold and the remaining ones are reset," and "others (else)."

Here, in the flowchart of Fig. 49, to explain more generally the floor configuration estimation processing for a three-child node, considerations are given not only to a case where all the ground contact portions 10

belonging to each intermediate node (the 145th node and the 236th node) simultaneously come in contact with the ground or leave a floor, as explained in the aforesaid second reference example, but also to a case where a
5 desired gait of a robot is generated such that one of the ground contact portions of each intermediate node is in contact with the ground, while the remaining ground contact portions leave the floor. In this case, unlike the two-child node type, it is necessary to consider also
10 a case where the modes of the three child nodes are "only two child nodes are ready," "only one child node is hold, and the remaining ones are reset," or "only two child nodes are hold, and the remaining ones are reset." In the following explanation, the three child nodes of an n-th
15 node will be referred to as an i-th node, a j-th node, and a k-th node.

Here, if it is determined that the modes of child nodes are "all ready," then it is determined in S6602 whether a resultant force F_{n_z}
20 $(=F_{i_act_z}+F_{j_act_z}+F_{k_act_z})$ resultant force of the translational force vertical components $F_{i_act_z}$, $F_{j_act_z}$, and $F_{k_act_z}$ of the actual node floor reaction forces of the child nodes of the n-th node is larger than a predetermined value F_{n_min2} . In other words, F_{n_z} denotes
25 the translational force vertical component of the resultant force of the actual floor reaction forces of all ground contact portions belonging to the n-th node.

If the determination result of S6602 is YES, then intra-group all estimation processing for a node having three child nodes (the processing for virtually estimating the node relative floor height error of each of the three child nodes owned by the n-th node) is carried out in S6604. In this processing, estimated node relative floor height errors $Z_{i_rel_estm}$, $Z_{j_rel_estm}$, and $Z_{k_rel_estm}$ of the i-th node, j-th node, and the k-th node, respectively, which are the three child nodes of the n-th node, are determined (updated) according to the expressions shown in the flowchart of Fig. 50. More specifically, $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ will be representatively explained. An i-th node relative floor height error correction amount candidate value $Z_{i_inc_cand}$ determined in the aforesaid S54 is added to a value $Z_{i_rel_estm_p}$ of $Z_{i_rel_estm}$ in the last control cycle thereby to determine a new estimated i-th node relative floor height error $Z_{i_rel_estm}$. The same applies to the j-th node and the k-th node.

If the determination result of S6602 is NO, then it means that the accuracy of estimating a floor configuration error would be excessively deteriorated, so that no substantial estimation processing is carried out, and the intra-group all hold processing for a node having three child nodes (the processing for holding the estimated node relative floor height errors of the three child nodes of the n-th node without updating them) is carried out in S6606. In the hold processing, as shown by

the expressions in the flowchart of Fig. 52, the values of the estimated node relative floor height errors Zi_rel_estm , Zj_rel_estm , and Zk_rel_estm of the i-th node, the j-th node, and the k-th node, respectively, are maintained at the values $Zi_rel_estm_p$, $Zj_rel_estm_p$, and Zk_rel_estm in the last control cycle.

Further, if it is determined in S6600 of Fig. 49 that the modes of the three child nodes are "all reset," then intra-group all reset processing for a node having three child nodes (the processing for resetting the estimated node relative floor height error of each of the three child nodes owned by the n-th node) is carried out in S6608. In the reset processing, the estimated node relative floor height errors Zi_rel_estm , Zj_rel_estm , and Zk_rel_estm of the i-th node, the j-th node, and the k-th node, respectively, are updated according to the expressions in the flowchart of Fig. 51 such that they gradually approximate zero. Incidentally, the meanings of ΔT and T_{estm} in the expressions are the same as those of the aforesaid expression 35.

More generally speaking, the reset processing is the processing in which Zi_rel_estm , Zj_rel_estm , and Zk_rel_estm are determined to take values that are closer to zero than $Zi_rel_estm_p$, $Zj_rel_estm_p$, and $Zk_rel_estm_p$ are, while satisfying a condition in which their weighted average value is zero, that is,

$$Wi \cdot Zi_rel_estm + Wj \cdot Zj_rel_estm + Wk \cdot Zk_rel_estm = 0.$$

Incidentally, the aforesaid finite stabilization function generator (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H5-324115) may be used to reset $Zi_rel_estm_p$, $Zj_rel_estm_p$, and $Zk_rel_estm_p$ to zero.

5 Further, if it is determined in S6600 of Fig. 49 that the modes of the three child nodes are "only two child nodes are ready," then it is determined in S6610 whether the translational force vertical component Fn_z of the resultant force of the actual node floor reaction
10 forces of the child nodes of an n-th node (the resultant force of the actual floor reaction forces of all ground contact portions 10 belonging to the n-th node) is larger than the predetermined value Fn_min2 .

 If the result of the determination is YES, then the
15 intra-group partial estimation processing for a node having three child nodes (the processing for substantially estimating the node relative floor height error of each of the three child nodes owned by the n-th node) is carried out in S6612. This processing is carried out as shown by
20 the flowchart of Fig. 53. In this case, it is assumed that the i-th node is not in the ready mode, while the j-th node and the k-th node are in the ready mode.

 First, in S66120, the mode of the i-th node is determined. If the result of the determination is the
25 hold mode, then a new i-th node relative floor height error correction amount candidate value Zi_inc_cand' is determined to be zero in S66122, or if it is the reset

mode, then the new i -th node relative floor height error
correction amount candidate value Zi_inc_cand' is
determined in S66124 according to the expression in the
figure. Zi_inc_cand' determined in S66124 denotes an i -th
5 node relative floor height error correction amount
candidate value for gradually bringing $Zi_rel_estm_p$ close
to zero. The meanings of ΔT and $Testm$ in the expressions
of S66124 are the same as those of the aforesaid
expression 35. Supplementally, the aforesaid finite
10 stabilization function generator (Japanese Unexamined
Patent Application Publication No. H5-324115) may be used
to determine Zi_inc_cand' in S66124.

Subsequently, in S66126, a new j -th node relative
floor height error correction amount candidate value
15 Zj_inc_cand' and a new k -th node relative floor height
error correction amount candidate value Zk_inc_cand' are
determined according to the expressions in the figure.

More specifically, Zj_inc_cand' and Zk_inc_cand'
are determined such that they satisfy a condition
20 represented by $Wi*Zi_inc_cand' + Wj*Zj_inc_cand' +$
 $Wk*Zk_inc_cand' = 0$ (a condition in which the weighted
average value of Zi_inc_cand' , Zj_inc_cand' and
 Zk_inc_cand' is zero) and a condition represented by
 $Zj_inc_cand' - Zj_inc_cand = Zk_inc_cand' - Zk_inc_cand$.

25 Subsequently, in S66128, Zi_inc_cand' , Zj_inc_cand ,
and Zk_inc_cand' determined as described above are added
to the values $Zi_rel_estm_p$, $Zj_rel_estm_p$, and

Zk_rel_estm_p of the relative floor height errors of the i-th node, the j-th node, and the k-th node, respectively, in the last control cycle so as to determine new Zi_rel_estm, Zj_rel_estm, and Zk_rel_estm.

5 By determining Zi_rel_estm, Zj_rel_estm, and Zk_rel_estm as described above, Zi_rel_estm, Zi_rel_estm, and Zk_rel_estm will be determined such that Zj_rel_estm-Zk_rel_estm approximates Zj_inc_cand-Zk_inc_cand while satisfying $W_i \cdot Z_i_rel_estm + W_j \cdot Z_j_rel_estm + W_k \cdot Z_k_rel_estm = 0$
10 at the same time.

 If the result of the determination of S6610 of Fig. 49 is NO, then the accuracy of estimating a floor configuration error would be excessively deteriorated, so that no substantial estimation processing is carried out,
15 but the same processing as that of the aforesaid S6606 (refer to Fig. 52) is carried out in S6614.

 Further, if it is determined in S6600 of Fig. 49 that the modes of the three child nodes are "only one child node is hold and the remaining ones are reset," then
20 the processing for a case where only one child mode is hold and the remaining ones are reset is carried out in S6616. In the processing, new node relative floor height errors Zi_rel_estm, Zj_rel_estm, and Zk_rel_estm are determined according to the expressions shown in the
25 flowchart of Fig. 54. Incidentally, in this case, it is assumed that the mode of the i-th node is the hold mode and the modes of the j-th node and the k-th node are the

reset mode. The meanings of ΔT and T_{estm} in the expressions are the same as those in the aforesaid expression 35.

5 The processing of Fig. 54 is, more generally, the processing for determining Zi_rel_estm to be zero and determining Zj_rel_estm and Zk_rel_estm to take values that are closer to zero than $Zj_rel_estm_p$ and $Zk_rel_estm_p$ are, while satisfying $Wi*Zi_rel_estm + Wj*Zj_rel_estm + Wk*Zk_rel_estm = 0$ (a condition in which the
10 weighted average value of Zi_rel_estm , Zj_rel_estm and Zk_rel_estm is zero). Supplementally, by the moment the modes of the j -th node and the k -th node both become the reset mode, their node weights Wj and Wk should have become zero. Hence, based on a condition in that the sum
15 of the weights Wi , Wj and Wk is 1, Wi will be 1 by that moment and $Wi*Zi_rel_estm + Wj*Zj_rel_estm + Wk*Zk_rel_estm = 0$, so that Zi_rel_estm will be zero by that moment. Thus, holding the value of the i -th node Zi_rel_estm means maintaining the value at zero.
20 Therefore, in the processing of Fig. 54, the value of Zi_rel_estm is determined to be zero.

Incidentally, the aforesaid finite stabilization function generator (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H5-324115) may be used in the processing
25 for gradually resetting Zj_rel_estm and Zk_rel_estm to zero.

Further, if it is determined in S6600 of Fig. 49

that the modes of the child nodes are "only two child nodes are hold and the remaining ones are reset," then the processing for a case where only two child modes are hold and the remaining ones are reset is carried out in S6618.

5 In the processing, new node relative floor height errors Zi_rel_estm , Zj_rel_estm , and Zk_rel_estm are determined according to the expressions shown in the flowchart of Fig. 55. Incidentally, in this case, it is assumed that the modes of the i-th node and the j-th mode are both the hold mode and the mode of the k-th node is the reset mode. The
10 meanings of ΔT and T_{estm} in the expressions are the same as those in the aforesaid expression 35.

The processing of Fig. 55 is, more generally, the processing for holding Zi_rel_estm and Zj_rel_estm at the
15 values in the last control cycle, and determining Zk_rel_estm to take a value that is closer to zero than $Zk_rel_estm_p$ is, while satisfying $Wi*Zi_rel_estm + Wj*Zj_rel_estm + Wk*Zk_rel_estm = 0$ (a condition in which the weighted average value of Zi_rel_estm , Zj_rel_estm and
20 Zk_rel_estm is zero). Supplementally, by the moment the k-th mode becomes the reset mode, Wk should have become zero.

Incidentally, the aforesaid finite stabilization function generator (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
25 Publication No. H5-324115) may be used in the processing for gradually resetting Zk_rel_estm to zero.

Further, if it is determined to be "Others" in

S6620 of Fig. 49 (e.g., if the modes of the three child nodes are all hold mode), then the same processing as that of the aforesaid S6606 (refer to Fig. 52) is carried out in S6620.

5 As described above, only in a case where the modes of two or more child nodes are ready out of the modes of the three child nodes of the n-th node, and there is no danger of divergence taking place in the processing of estimating node relative floor height errors, the
10 substantial estimation processing of the node relative floor height errors of the two or more child nodes is carried out. And, even if the modes of two or more child nodes are ready, if there is a danger of the occurrence of divergence in estimation processing, then the values of
15 the estimated node relative floor height errors of the three child nodes are held.

 As described above, in S60 to S66 of Fig. 41, estimated n-th relative floor height errors
 $Zn_rel_estm(n=1,2,...,last\ node\ number)$ are determined.
20 Incidentally, the relative floor height error of the root node is zero.

 In the processing of the flowchart of Fig. 41, lastly, in S72, the sum of the estimated relative floor height errors of all ancestor nodes of an n-th node
25 ($n=1,2,...,last\ leaf\ node\ number$) and an estimated n-th node relative floor height error is determined, and the determined sum is defined as an estimated n-th ground

contact portion floor height error (estimated n-th floor height error) Z_{fn_estm} .

The above is the subroutine processing of the estimation processing of floor height errors in Fig. 40.

5 Next, returning to the explanation of Fig. 35, the estimated n-th floor height error $Z_{fn_estm}(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number})$ sequentially determined by the floor configuration estimator 130 as described above is added to the corrected desired ground contact portion
10 position/posture of each ground contact portion 10 by an adder 132 so as to determine corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with floor configuration error compensation. Then, the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with floor configuration
15 error compensation is input, in place of corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture, to the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation calculator 114h.

20 The processing of the control system 50 including the floor configuration estimator 130 and the adder 132 explained above is repeatedly carried out for each control cycle of the control system 50, thereby causing the estimated n-th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} to converge to an actual n-th floor height error. Further, desired
25 ground contact portion positions/postures are corrected on the basis of the estimated n-th floor height errors Z_{fn_estm} corresponding to the ground contact portions so

as to absorb an influence exerted by an actual n -th floor height error on an actual floor reaction force.

If all n -th ground contact portions ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number}$) are in contact with the ground, then the point corresponding to a desired n -th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n on the actual ground contact surface of an n -th ground contact portion should agree with an actual n -th floor contact point D_{n_act} . Therefore, the aforesaid instantaneous n -th node relative floor height error Z_{n_rel}' should not change. In actuality, however, the instantaneous n -th node relative floor height error Z_{n_rel}' obtained by the aforesaid calculation algorithm of the aforesaid floor configuration estimator 130 significantly changes due to the vibrations and electrical noises of a mechanical system or control system of the robot 1. Therefore, if the instantaneous n -th node relative floor height error is directly used as an estimated n -th node relative floor height error, and if, based on this, the estimated n -th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} is determined (that is, the sum of the instantaneous relative floor height errors of all ancestor nodes of an n -th node ($n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number}$) and the instantaneous n -th node relative floor height error is defined as the estimated n -th floor height error Z_{fn_estm}), and further, if the result obtained by adding the estimated n -th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} to the corrected desired ground contact portion

position/posture is supplied to the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation calculator 114h, as shown in Fig. 35, then the ground contact portions 10 of the robot 1 will oscillate or severely vibrate.

Meanwhile, in the intra-group all estimation processing for a node having two child nodes, the intra-group all estimation processing for a node having three child nodes, and the intra-group partial estimation processing for a node having three child nodes described above, the transfer function from the instantaneous n-th node relative floor height error Z_{n_rel}' to the estimated n-th node relative floor height error $Z_{n_rel_estm}$ will be a primary delay low-pass filter. In other words, the estimated n-th node relative floor height error $Z_{n_rel_estm}$ will be the one obtained by passing the instantaneous n-th node relative floor height error Z_{n_rel}' through a low-pass filter. Therefore, even when the estimated n-th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} determined on the basis of the estimated n-th node relative floor height error $Z_{n_rel_estm}$ is added to the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture, as shown in Fig. 35, the oscillation or vibration of the ground contact portions 10 will hardly occur. This makes it possible to restrain the ground contact portions 10 from oscillating or vibrating.

Incidentally, in the present reference example, the

time constant of the aforesaid low-pass filter is T_{estm} . Other than the processing of the floor configuration estimator 130 explained in the present reference example, it is also possible to accomplish a construction in which the transfer function from the instantaneous n-th node relative floor height error Z_{n_rel}' to the estimated n-th node relative floor height error $Z_{n_rel_estm}$ will be a low-pass filter.

The characteristics of the floor configuration estimator 130 in the present embodiment will now be explained.

Even if each node compensating angle is changed and the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation, which are the final desired ground contact portion position/posture, are changed to generate node compensating moments required for the stabilization control of the posture of the robot 1, the point corresponding to the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point Q_n of the n-th ground contact portion 10 on an actual ground contact surface remains in agreement with the actual n-th floor contact point D_{nact} as long as the ground contact portions 10 are actually in contact with the ground.

Instead, the compliance mechanism 42 or the like of each leg deforms or the position/posture of the body 24 change. In other words, the compliance mechanism 42 or the like

deforms or the position/posture of the body 24 change in order to cancel the change of the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation.

5 The floor configuration estimator 130 in the present reference example cancels the influences exerted on the estimated n-th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} by the deformation amount of the compliance mechanism 42 or the like, which is calculated by the mechanism compliance
10 model 134 on the basis of an actual floor reaction force, and the body posture inclination error θ_{berr} by the time the estimated n-th floor height error $Z_{fn_estm}(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number})$ is calculated from the corrected desired ground contact portion
15 position/posture with deformation compensation. Hence, even if a body posture inclination error occurs or corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation change, the estimated n-th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} is not influenced thereby.

20 This means that the processing for estimating a floor configuration is not subjected to interference by the compliance control or posture control of the robot 1. Therefore, even when the estimated n-th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} is added to the corrected desired ground contact
25 portion position/posture, as shown in Fig. 35, the stability allowance (resistance to oscillation) of the control system of the robot 1 hardly reduces. In other

words, control and processing will not interfere with each other and cause oscillation even if the compliance control, posture control and the floor configuration estimation processing and the operation for correcting a desired gait of the robot 1 by using the estimated value of a floor configuration error are simultaneously performed. This means, in brief, that the leg compensating operation to cancel the influence exerted on a floor reaction force by a floor configuration error (the operation for correcting the position/posture of a ground contact portion) can be simultaneously performed while simultaneously estimating a plurality of parameters of the floor configuration error. Moreover, the leg compensating operation for posture control (the operation for correcting the position/posture of a ground contact portion) can be simultaneously performed.

Further, if the estimated n -th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} of each ground contact portion 10 is added to the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture, as shown in Fig. 35, then even if there is actually an n -th floor height error, the influence thereof can be offset, so that the actual total floor reaction force will steadily be the same as that in a case where the robot 1 is traveling on a supposed floor. Furthermore, the estimation of the estimated n -th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} and the correction of corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture by using the estimated n -

th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} are sequentially carried out for each control cycle; therefore, even if a floor configuration changes in the middle, the n-th floor height error after the change can be estimated and the influence exerted by the change in the floor configuration can be cancelled on the basis of the estimated value. However, the floor configuration estimator 130 includes a low-pass filter, as mentioned above, so that an actual total floor reaction force is transitionally subject to the influence of a floor configuration error immediately after the ground contact portions 10 come in contact with the ground or if the floor configuration changes in the middle. Thereafter, however, the influence is attenuated by the time constant T_{estm} .

Further, there are the following characteristics.

- 1) Control is resistant to failure even if a floor configuration error is large. This is because the hierarchical compliance control does not carry out approximation limited to minute compensating angles.
- 2) The accuracy of estimating floor configuration errors is high.
- 3) Resistant to the occurrence of oscillation attributable to the interference with the robot posture stabilization control, permitting a shorter time constant for estimation processing to be achieved. This makes it possible to enhance the responsiveness of the leg compensating operation to offset the influence exerted by a floor

configuration error on a floor reaction force, so that the transitional influence exerted by the floor configuration error on the floor reaction force can be quickly eliminated.

5 If there is no correlation in the relationship between the estimated n -th floor height error in a landing period of one step before (a period in which a certain ground contact portion 10 comes in contact with the ground) and the estimated n -th floor height error in a
10 landing period following the above landing period of one step before when a robot is traveling, then it is preferred to forcibly and gradually converge the estimated n -th floor height error to zero, as shown in the present reference example. However, if, for example, it is known
15 that the undulation of an actual floor surface not considered in a supposed floor is gentle, then it is considered that there is some correlation in the aforesaid relationship. In this case, the estimated n -th floor height error in the current landing period may be forcibly
20 and gradually converged to the value obtained by multiplying the estimated n -th floor height error in the landing period of one step before by a positive constant that is smaller than 1.

 Further, the convergence desired value of an
25 estimated n -th floor height error in the current landing period may be determined by using not only the estimated n -th floor height error in the landing period of one step

before but also the estimated n-th floor height error in the landing period of a plurality of steps before.

Further, the convergence desired value may be determined by using the estimated n-th node floor height error and

5 the estimated n-th node floor inclination error of another node in the landing period of current step, one step before or a plurality of steps before.

Since the present reference example (the third
10 reference example) has been constructed as described above, the estimation of floor configurations, specifically, the floor height errors associated with ground contact portions, can be simultaneously, in other words, compositely, estimated with high accuracy even in a robot
15 having many ground contact portions, which has been difficult to accomplish with conventional technologies. Moreover, if the ground contact portions of a robot are provided such that their postures can be controlled, and floor inclination errors are estimated in addition to
20 floor height errors in the processing for estimating floor configurations, then the floor inclination errors can be also simultaneously estimated with high accuracy.

Furthermore, by correcting a desired ground contact portion position/posture trajectory on the basis of the
25 result of estimating a floor configuration, even if a floor configuration is different from a supposed configuration, the influence thereof can be absorbed, thus

making it possible to generate a floor reaction force as desired.

In particular, the steady error of an actual floor reaction force from a control desired value, which has not been completely removed by the hierarchical compliance control that does not include corrections based on the estimated values of floor configuration errors, can be brought close to zero as much as possible. In other words, the steady errors of floor reaction forces caused by floor configuration errors can be eliminated.

Furthermore, the arrangement has been made such that the estimation of a floor configuration is interrupted in a situation wherein the accuracy of estimating a floor configuration may deteriorate or a situation wherein the estimated value thereof may diverge. This adds to the aforesaid advantages by preventing estimated values from being inappropriate.

Incidentally, the floor configuration estimator of a robot according to the present reference example is expected to estimate floor configurations by the aforesaid techniques, and it is not essential to correct motions on the basis of estimated values.

[Fourth Reference Example]

A control system (a floor configuration estimator in particular) of a mobile robot according to a fourth reference example of the present invention will now be

explained. In the fourth reference example, to explain it in brief, the block diagram of the floor configuration estimator 130 shown in Fig. 40 of the aforesaid third reference example has been equivalently converted. More specifically, the floor reaction force of each node is estimated on the basis of the estimated value of a floor configuration estimated immediately before (the past value of an estimated value, such as the estimated value in the last control cycle), a desired gait that has been finally corrected and determined (detailedly, corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation including a compliance operation) (or an actual joint displacement), and an actual body posture inclination error θ_{berr} . Based on the difference between the estimated value and the actual floor reaction force of each node, the correction amount candidate value of the estimated value of the floor configuration is determined to bring the difference close to zero. If it is determined that the estimation of the floor configuration will not diverge, then the estimated value of the floor configuration that has been estimated immediately before is corrected on the basis of the correction amount candidate value of the estimated value of the floor configuration. This processing corresponds to a hierarchical floor configuration estimating means that is an advanced version of the means for estimating a floor inclination related to each foot such that the difference

between the supposed moment about the floor reaction force central point of the foot of each leg of a biped mobile robot and an actual moment approximates zero and the means for estimating the interference angle between both legs such that the difference between the supposed moment about a total floor reaction force central point and an actual moment approximates zero in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969 previously proposed by the present applicant.

Thus, the present reference example differs from the third reference example only in the processing of a floor configuration estimator 130, so that the explanation of the processing of those other than the floor configuration estimator 130 will be omitted.

Fig. 57 is a block diagram showing the functional means of the floor configuration estimator 130 in the present reference example. Referring to this Fig. 57, the floor configuration estimator 130 in the present reference example will be explained below.

First, based on corrected desired n-th ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation ($n=1,2,\dots$, last leaf node number) of each ground contact portion 10, the desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point of the ground contact portion 10 observed from the desired ground contact portion position of each ground contact portion 10, and the aforesaid posture inclination error θ_{berr} , the

corrected desired n-th ground contact portion
position/posture with deformation compensation is
rotationally moved by θ_{berr} , a desired total floor
reaction force central point being the center of the
5 rotation, so as to determine the corrected desired n-th
ground contact portion position/posture ($n=1,2,\dots,last$
leaf node number) with deformation compensation after
rotation. A supposed n-th floor contact position
 D_n ($n=1,2,\dots,last$ leaf node number) on a desired gait is
10 subtracted from the determined corrected desired n-th
ground contact portion position/posture ($n=1,2,\dots,last$
leaf node number) with deformation compensation after
rotation so as to determine an n-th ground contact portion
interference height Z_{n_int} . This is supplied to a
15 mechanism compliance model (inverse model) provided in a
floor configuration estimator 130, thereby determining an
estimated n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force,
which is the estimated value of the floor reaction force
of each ground contact portion 10.

20 Incidentally, the mechanism compliance model here
is used to determine the mutual relative relationship
among the estimated ground contact portion floor reaction
forces on the basis of the mutual relative relationship
among ground contact portion interference heights, and it
25 finds no meaning in absolute values. Further, if the
detected value of an actual floor reaction force F_{n_act} of
an n-th ground contact portion is smaller than a certain

threshold value F_{n_min3} , then it is assumed that the n -th ground contact portion is not in contact with the ground also in the aforesaid mechanism compliance model.

Further, the aforesaid estimated n -th ground
5 contact portion floor reaction force is subtracted from the detected value of the actual floor reaction force F_{nact} of an n -th ground contact portion ($n=1,2,\dots,last$ leaf node number) to determine the estimated error of the n -th ground contact portion floor reaction force
10 $F_{fn_estm_err}$. The estimated error of the n -th ground contact portion floor reaction force $F_{fn_estm_err}$ is expressed in terms of a force, so that it is converted into a height error by a conversion value C_n (e.g., the reciprocal of a spring constant) and the result is adopted
15 as an n -th ground contact portion floor height error correction amount candidate value $Z_{fn_inc_cand}$. Incidentally, the conversion value C_n is not necessarily a diagonal matrix.

Subsequently, hierarchical relativization is
20 performed by the "hierarchical relativization processing" described above on the basis of the determined n -th ground contact portion floor height error correction amount candidate value $Z_{fn_inc_cand}$ so as to determine an n -th node relative floor height error correction amount
25 candidate value $Z_{n_inc_cand}(n=1,2,\dots,last \text{ node number})$. Then, based on the n -th node relative floor height error correction amount candidate value $Z_{n_inc_cand}$, an

estimated floor height error (estimated n-th floor height error) $Z_{fn_estm}(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number})$ is determined by the subroutine processing of the estimation processing of floor height errors. The subroutine processing of the estimation processing of floor height errors here is identical to the processing of S56 to S72 shown in Fig 41.

It is desirable to carry out the ground contact portion floor inclination error estimation processing as explained in conjunction with S70 of Fig. 41 in the case of a robot that has feet whose postures can be controlled as ground contact portions and that is capable of estimating the floor inclination errors in ground contact portions, as disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969.

The third reference example and the fourth reference example (the present reference example) will now be compared. The fourth reference example is, in brief, the converted equivalent of the block diagram of the floor configuration estimator 130 of the third reference example. Hence, the advantages of the fourth reference example are the same as the advantages of the third reference example. Further, as with the third reference example, it is not essential to correct motions on the basis of the estimated values of floor configurations.

In the third and the fourth reference examples, distributed pressure sensors may be used as floor reaction

force sensors. Distributed pressure sensors make it possible to estimate more finely the deformations of ground contact portions due to actual floor reaction forces than force sensors, such as the six-axis force sensor 34, so that the accuracy in estimating floor configurations can be improved.

Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 1 of Patent No. 3035051 by the present applicant, a plurality of contact sensors may be disposed on a ground contact portion (e.g., on the four corners of the ground contact portion), and it may be determined in which direction the ground contact portion is likely to float on the basis of the output signals thereof. Then, the estimation of a floor configuration in the direction in which a contact sensor that is not in contact with the ground is likely to further float may be interrupted, or the estimation of a floor configuration may be interrupted also when all contact sensors are floating.

[Fifth Reference Example]

In the first to the fourth reference examples described above, the cases where the total number of child nodes of a node having child nodes is three or less have been taken as examples in the above explanation; however, also in a case where the number of child nodes is four or more, the concepts of the moments and inclination angles can be expanded as shown below by introducing the concept

of a weighted average.

The concept can be expanded for any of desired values, actual values, and errors. Here, therefore, the desired values, the actual values, and errors will not be discriminated; instead, the moment for a general set of ground contact portion floor reaction forces $F_n(n=1,2,\dots)$ will be expanded and defined as shown below.

A set of the floor reaction forces of an n -th ground contact portion $F_n(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number})$ is hierarchically relativized to determine an n -th node relative floor reaction force $F_{n_rel}(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number})$.

The number of the child nodes of an n -th node is denoted by r .

The identification number of a j -th child node of the n -th node is denoted by $a_j (j=1,2,\dots,r)$.

The weight of the j -th child node of the n -th node is denoted by $W_j (j=1,2,\dots,r)$.

The column vector having, as a j -th element, the weight of the j -th child node of the n -th node is denoted by UW_n .

Thus, UW_n is defined as shown by the following expression 38, where "T" means transposition, and a column vector can be expressed by transposing a row vector.

$$UW_n = (Wa_1, Wa_2, \dots, Wa_r)^T \quad \dots \text{Expression 38}$$

$r-1$ mutually independent vectors orthogonal to the vector UW_n (that is, the scalar product with the vector UW_n is zero) are denoted by $R(1), R(2), \dots, R(r-1)$. $R(j)$ ($j=1, 2, \dots, r-1$) denotes the column vector of r row, 1 column. Incidentally, $R(j)$ ($j=1, 2, \dots, r-1$) are desirably orthogonal to each other, considering the ease of computation and control accuracy. A matrix having $R(j)$ set to a j -th column ($j=1, 2, \dots, r-1$) is denoted by H_n . H_n is the matrix of r row, $r-1$ column.

A column vector whose j -th element ($j=1, 2, \dots, r$) is a relative floor reaction force F_{aj_rel} of a j -th child node of the n -th node is defined as an n -th group relative floor reaction force vector $F_{n_rel_c}$.

In other words, $F_{n_rel_c}$ is defined by the following expression 39.

$$F_{n_rel_c} = (F_{a1_rel}, F_{a2_rel}, \dots, F_{ar_rel})^T \quad \dots \text{Expression 39}$$

$F_{n_rel_c}$ denotes a column vector of r row, 1 column.

A column vector M_{n_exp} satisfying the following expression 40 is referred to as an n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment.

$$F_{n_rel_c} = H_n * M_{n_exp} \quad \dots \text{Expression 40}$$

M_{n_exp} denotes a column vector of $r-1$ row, 1 column.

For the set of ground contact portion floor reaction forces $F_n(n=1,2,\dots)$, the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment M_{n_exp} is defined as described above.

5 More specifically, based on the ground contact portion floor reaction force $F_n(n=1,2,\dots)$, a hierarchized node relative floor reaction force $F_{n_rel}(n=1,2,\dots)$ is determined, and further, a vector having, as its element, the coefficient of the linear combination when a vector
10 $(F_{a1_rel}, F_{a2_rel}, \dots, F_{ar_rel})^T$ having, as its elements, the relative floor reaction forces of all child nodes a_j ($j=a1, a2, \dots, ar$) of an n -th node is expressed by the liner combination of certain predetermined mutually independent vectors $R(j)$ ($j=1,2,\dots,r-1$) that are orthogonal to a
15 vector $(W_{a1}, W_{a2}, \dots, W_{ar})^T$ having, as its elements, the weights of all child nodes of the n -th node is referred to as the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment M_{n_exp} .

 Incidentally, a j -th element (the element of a j -th
20 row) of the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment M_{n_exp} is referred to as the j -th component of the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment.

 Further, the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment relative to the set of actual ground contact
25 portion floor reaction forces $F_n(n=1,2,\dots)$ is referred to as the actual n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment $M_{n_exp_act}$.

Further, the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment relative to the set of desired ground contact portion floor reaction forces $F_n(n=1,2,\dots)$ is referred to as the desired n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment $M_{n_exp_ref}$. The desired n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment is usually set to zero vector.

Further, the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment relative to the set of ground contact portion floor reaction force errors $F_n(n=1,2,\dots)$ is referred to as the n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment error $M_{n_exp_err}$.

Similarly, the inclination angle relative to a set of general ground contact portion heights $Z_n(n=1,2,\dots)$ is expanded and defined as follows.

A set of ground contact portion heights $Z_n(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last leaf node number})$ is hierarchically relativized to determine an n -th node relative height $Z_{n_rel}(n=1,2,\dots,\text{last node number})$.

A column vector whose j -th element ($j=1,2,\dots,r$) is a relative height Z_{aj_rel} of a j -th child node of the n -th node is defined as an n -th node relative height vector $Z_{n_rel_c}$.

In other words, $Z_{n_rel_c}$ is defined by the following expression 41.

$$Z_{n_rel_c} = (Z_{a1_rel}, Z_{a2_rel}, \dots, Z_{ar_rel})^T \dots \text{Expression 41}$$

A column vector $\theta_n\text{-exp}$ satisfying the following expression 42 is referred to as an n-th node expansion floor reaction force inclination angle.

5 $Z_n\text{-rel_c} = H_n * \theta_n\text{-exp}$... Expression 42

$\theta_n\text{-exp}$ denotes a column vector of r-1 row, 1 column.

More specifically, based on the ground contact
10 portion height $Z_n(n=1,2,...)$, a hierarchized node relative
height $Z_n\text{-rel}(n=1,2,...)$ is determined, and further, a
vector having, as its element, the coefficient of the
linear combination when a vector
($Z_{a1}\text{-rel}, Z_{a2}\text{-rel}, ..., Z_{ar}\text{-rel}$)^T having, as its elements,
15 the relative heights of all child nodes a_j ($j=1,2,...,r$)
of an n-th node is expressed by the liner combination of
certain predetermined mutually independent vectors
 $R(j)$ ($j=1,2,...,r-1$) that are orthogonal to a vector
($W_{a1}, W_{a2}, ..., W_{ar}$)^T having, as its elements, the weights of
20 all child nodes of the n-th node is referred to as the n-
th node expansion inclination angle θ_n .

By using the expansion floor reaction force moment
and the expansion inclination angle defined as described
above, the compliance control and the processing for
25 estimating floor configurations are expanded almost as
they are even for a case where the number of the child
nodes of an a-th node is four or more. The following will

explain an example thereof as a fifth reference example.

In the fifth reference example, the functional construction of a control system of a robot is the same as that shown in the aforesaid Fig. 2. In this case, the

5 functional construction of a hierarchical compliance operation determiner may be the same as that explained with reference to the aforesaid Fig. 35 except for a compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor, a compensating angle determiner, and a floor configuration
10 estimator.

[Expanding the processing of the compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor]

For example, the processing of the compensating
15 total floor reaction force moment distributor in the hierarchical compliance operation determiner is expanded as shown below.

The expansion floor reaction force moment to be generated in addition to a desired n-th node expansion
20 floor reaction force moment $M_{n_exp_rel}$ (normally zero) to restore the posture of a robot is referred to as an n-th node compensating expansion floor reaction force moment $M_{n_exp_dmd}$.

Expression 43 given below holds between the n-th
25 node compensating expansion floor reaction force moment $M_{n_exp_dmd}$ and the n-th node compensating floor reaction force moment M_{n_dmd} . However, C_{n_mech} denotes a

predetermined coefficient matrix (the matrix of 2 rows, r-1 column) determined by each desired node floor reaction force central point and the compliance characteristic of the mechanism of the robot.

5

$$Mn_dmd = Cn_mech * Mn_exp_dmd \quad \dots \text{Expression 43}$$

Meanwhile, generalizing the aforesaid expression 10 provides the following expression 44.

10

$$Mdmd = \Sigma Mn_dmd \quad \dots \text{Expression 44}$$

where Σ means the total sum on all n-th nodes.

Hence, the compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor may determine the n-th node compensating expansion floor reaction force moment Mn_exp_dmd ($n=1,2,\dots$) and the n-th node compensating floor reaction force moment Mn_dmd such that expression 43 and expression 44 are satisfied.

20

[Expanding the processing of the compensating angle determiner (θ_n determiner)]

The processing of the n-th node compensating angle determiner in the fifth reference example is carried out as follows. For example, in the processing of the θ_{145} determiner in the third reference example (refer to Fig. 25 and Fig. 33), the processing until M_{145act} is

determined is replaced by the processing for determining the aforesaid actual n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment Mn_exp_act on the basis of the actual floor reaction force of each ground contact portion, 145 is replaced by n , and the dimension of the compensation filter, the low-pass filter, and gain Kn in Fig. 33 is expanded to the number obtained by subtracting 1 from the number of child nodes of an n -th node. The compensating angle θ_n of the n -th node can be determined by the processing that has been replaced as described above.

[Estimating a floor configuration by using an expansion floor reaction force moment]

As described below, the processing of the floor configuration estimator may partly incorporate a technique using the concept of the expansion floor reaction force moment.

In place of the processing shown in Fig. 56 of the floor configuration estimator explained in the aforesaid fourth reference example, the processing shown in the block diagram of Fig. 57 is used to estimate floor configuration errors.

Referring to Fig. 57, this processing will be explained. First, an n -th node expansion floor reaction force moment estimation error $Mn_exp_estm_err$ corresponding to an n -th ground contact portion floor reaction force estimation error Ffn_estm_err ($n=1,2,\dots$)

is determined according to the definition of the expansion moment from the difference between the estimated n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force calculated as explained in conjunction with the aforesaid Fig. 56 and the actual floor reaction force of the n-th ground contact portion (the set of differences for each node).

Incidentally, the aforesaid vector $R(j)$ required to determine the n-th node expansion floor reaction force moment estimation error is determined on the basis of the weight of each node.

Subsequently, as shown in expression 45 given below, the n-th node expansion floor reaction force moment estimation error $Mn_exp_estm_err$ is multiplied by a predetermined coefficient matrix Kn_cmpl thereby to determine an n-th node expansion inclination angle correction amount candidate value θn_inc_cand , which is the candidate value of the correction amount of the n-th node expansion inclination angle.

$$\theta n_inc_cand = Kn_cmpl * Mn_exp_estm_err \quad \dots$$

Expression 45

Incidentally, Kn_cmpl is not necessarily a diagonal matrix.

Subsequently, a coefficient for a vector $R(j)$ ($j=1,2,\dots,r-1$) is defined as the j-th element of θn_inc_cand to determine a vector obtained by linearly

combining the vectors $R(j)$. The determined vector is defined as the n-th node relative floor height error correction amount candidate value Zn_inc_cand , which is the candidate value of the correction amount of the n-th node relative floor height error.

In other words, Zn_inc_cand is determined according to the following expression 46.

$$Zn_inc_cand = Hn * 0n_inc_cand \quad \dots$$

Expression 46

As described above, the processing up to the step for determining the n-th node relative floor height error correction amount candidate value Zn_inc_cand from the n-th node floor reaction force estimation error Fn_estm_err shown in Fig. 56 may be replaced by the one shown in Fig. 57.

The arithmetic processing of Fig. 57 other than the above is the same as the arithmetic processing of Fig. 56.

The subroutine processing of the floor height error estimation processing in the fifth reference example requires the processing for a case where the number of child nodes of an n-th node is four or more. This processing expands the aforesaid floor configuration estimation processing for a three-child node (refer to Fig. 41), and if the ground contact portion corresponding to any one child node j is likely to float and diverge, then

the estimated j -th node relative floor height error $Z_{j_rel_estm}$ is maintained at the last value $Z_{j_rel_estm_p}$ (the j -th node relative floor height error correction amount candidate value $Z_{j_inc_cand}$ is set to zero), as
5 with the floor configuration estimation processing for a three-child node. Further, the estimated node relative floor height errors $Z_{k_rel_estm}$ of the remaining child nodes are determined such that they approximate the value obtained by adding a certain predetermined bias value c to
10 the sum of the last estimated k -th node relative floor height error $Z_{k_rel_estm_p}$ and $Z_{n_inc_cand}$. However, the bias value c is determined such that the weighted average of the estimated node relative floor height errors of all child nodes of the n -th node is zero.

15 As described above, the floor configuration estimation processing can be expanded also when there is a node having four or more child nodes. However, the arithmetic processing will be easier if a hierarchical structure is determined not to have four or more child
20 nodes rather than carrying out such processing.

Based on the first to the fifth reference examples explained above, the following will explain the embodiments of the present invention.

25 [First Embodiment]

Referring now to Fig. 58 to Fig. 65, a control system for a mobile robot according to a first embodiment

of the present invention will be explained. Fig. 58 and Fig. 59 are side views showing a legged mobile robot 51 according to the first embodiment (a bipedal mobile robot in the present embodiment), the portion of a knee joint 56, which will be discussed later, being in contact with a floor (kneeling). Incidentally, Fig. 58 schematically shows the robot 51 as a linear link assembly.

An object of the invention related to the present embodiment is to stably control the posture of a robot by manipulating a reaction force (external force) received from a floor, including an object fixed on the floor, in a state wherein a portion, such as a knee, an elbow, or a trunk other than the distal portions of the legs or arms of the robot is in contact with the floor or the object fixed (set) on the floor (an object regarded as a material extended from the floor).

More specifically, the object is to permit posture control in a state wherein the robot is kneeling or in a state wherein it is sitting on a chair.

A conventional publicly known human-like robot is not provided with sensors for detecting floor reaction forces on, for example, its knees, so that it has been impossible to control the floor reaction forces acting on the knees. For instance, in the conventional human-like robot, when the robot is kneeling as shown in Fig. 58 and Fig. 59, the floor reaction forces acting on the right and left knees are dependent on (governed by) the projections

or depressions of a floor, and the joint angles of legs have not been adjusted on the basis of the projections or depressions of the floor. Hence, there have been some cases where the portions of the robot in contact with the floor shake due to projections or depressions of the floor, leading to unstable ground contact states of the ground contact portions. And, in such a state, an attempt to make the robot move or work sometimes has caused instability of the posture of the robot.

Further, when, for example, the robot rises from the state wherein it is kneeling, there has been a danger of the robot falling down if an actual floor inclination is different from the inclination supposed in a desired gait, because the position of the center-of-gravity of the robot is not properly controlled and the robot tries to stand up with its body posture inclined.

Further, in a case where the robot sitting on a chair operates or works while maintaining its posture stable, it is desirable that not only the floor reaction forces acting on the feet of the legs of the robot but also the reaction forces acting from the chair onto the buttocks of the robot can be properly controlled so as to restore the posture of the robot to a proper posture when it rises from the chair or sits onto the chair.

Conceptually, if an object, such as a chair, which is fixedly set on a floor is considered as a part of a floor, then the aforesaid reaction forces may be said to

be floor reaction forces in a broad sense.

With the view of the problems with the conventional system as described above, the first embodiment solves the aforesaid problems, and in a state wherein portions of a mobile robot, such as the knees, elbows, the trunk, and buttocks, other than the distal portions of legs or arms are in contact with a floor or an object considered as a material extended from the floor and subjected to reaction forces, it properly controls not only the reaction forces acting on the distal portions of the legs or arms of a robot but also the reaction forces acting on the portions other than the distal portions of the legs or arms, while using the control of the hierarchical compliance described above, thereby making it possible to keep the posture of the mobile robot stable.

The following will explain the first embodiment in more detail by taking the robot (bipedal mobile robot) shown in Fig. 58 and Fig. 59 as an example.

First, the mechanical construction of the robot will be explained. In the robot, two legs (link mechanisms) (one leg being not shown) are extended from the bottom end of a body (base body). Further, two arms (link mechanisms) (one arm being not shown) are extended from upper part of the body. Each leg is provided with a hip joint, a knee joint, and an ankle joint at its proximal portion adjacent to the body (the portion connected to the body), its middle

portion, and its distal portion, respectively, which are operated by actuators, such as electric motors, and a foot 58 is connected to the distal portion of each leg 52 through the ankle joint 57. Similarly, each arm 54 is provided with a shoulder joint 59, an elbow joint 60, and a wrist joint 61 at its proximal portion adjacent to the body 53 (the portion connected to the body 53), its middle portion, and its distal portion, respectively, which are operated by actuators, such as electric motors, and a hand 62 is connected to the distal portion of each arm 54 through the wrist joint 61. In this example, the joints 55, 56, and 57 of each leg 2 are joints having, for example, 3 degrees of freedom, 1 degree of freedom, and 2 degrees of freedom, respectively, and the foot 58 has 6 degrees of freedom relative to the body 53. Further, the shoulder joint 59, the elbow joint 60, and the wrist joint 61 of each arm 54 are constructed such that their degrees of freedom allow the hand 62 to have a degree of freedom of 6 degrees or more with respect to the body 53.

Although not shown, the body 53 of the robot 51 is provided with a control system 50 similar to that of the aforesaid first embodiment. Further, a head 63 is provided at the upper end of the body 53.

In this robot 1, in the state wherein the robot 1 is kneeling (particular posture state), as shown in Fig. 58 and Fig. 59, the portions of the foot 58 and each knee joint 56 of each leg 52 (more specifically, the surface

portion of a link (shank link) connecting the knee joint 56 and the ankle joint 57 at near the knee joint 56.

Hereinafter referred to simply as the knee) and the hand 62 of each arm 54 are ground contact portions. And, in

5 the present embodiment, as shown in Fig. 59, the knee, which is a ground contact portion, is provided with a floor reaction force sensor 90 (load sensor) as an

external force detecting means. The floor reaction force sensor 90 is constructed of a main body (sensor part) 92
10 and a soft member (elastic member) 94, such as a sponge.

The main body 92 is fixed to the knee (leg link), and the outside of the main body 92 is covered with a soft member (elastic member) 94. To enhance the accuracy of the

compliance control in the knee, it is desirable to shape
15 the surface (ground contact surface) of the soft member 94 into a round convex surface in addition to covering the knee with the soft member 94. This arrangement reduces the nonlinearity of the relationship between a corrective operation of a desired motion of the robot 51 and a floor

20 reaction force, resulting in better control performance of the compliance control. Incidentally, although not shown, the foot 58 and the ankle joint 57 are connected through a floor reaction force sensor, such as a six-axis force

sensor, and the compliance mechanism. Similarly, the hand
25 62 and the wrist joint 61 are connected through a floor reaction force sensor, such as a six-axis force sensor, and the compliance mechanism, which are not shown. The

connecting constructions may be ones that are publicly known.

The floor reaction force sensor 90 of the ground contact portion of the knee joint may be any one of the following.

1) Sensor that detects only the translational force in the direction perpendicular to the surface of a ground contact portion that comes in contact with a floor (ground contact surface)

2) Sensor that detects not only the translational force in the direction perpendicular to the surface of a ground contact portion that comes in contact with a floor (ground contact surface) but also the translational force in a direction other than the direction perpendicular to the contact surface

3) Distributed pressure sensor

4) Sensor that detects moments in addition to translational forces (e.g., six-axis force sensor)

Alternatively, a displacement sensor for detecting the deformation (distortion) of the aforesaid soft member 94 may be used in place of one that directly detects a load.

In the present embodiment, as the floor reaction force sensor 90, the sensor of the above 2) will be used. To further enhance the accuracy of the compliance control, the sensor of the above 3) or 4) may be used as the floor

reaction force sensor 90. Incidentally, as the structure of the knee, a floor reaction force sensor may be added to a protective pad provided with a spring (a pad for protecting the knee), as disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-62760 previously proposed by the present applicant.

Furthermore, although not shown, the distal portions of the legs 52 and the arms 54 are provided with external force detecting means, such as six-axis force sensors.

In the present embodiment, the hierarchical structure as shown in Fig. 61 is set for the robot 51 kneeling as described above. Specifically, the right foot 58, the left foot 58, the right knee, the left knee, the right hand 62, and the left hand 62 as the ground contact portions are associated with a first node, a second node, a third node, a fourth node, a fifth node, and a sixth node, respectively, which are leaf nodes. Further, a 12th node having the first node and the second node as child nodes, a 34th node having the third node and the fourth node as child nodes, a 56th node having the fifth node and the sixth node as child nodes, and a 1234th node having the 12th node and the 34th node as child nodes have been set as intermediate nodes. Further, a 123456th node having the 1234th node and the 56th node as child nodes has been set as the root node. Further, according to the policy similar to that in the aforesaid first reference

example and the like, a desired floor reaction force central point Q_n ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6,12,34,56,1234,123456$) is associated with each node, as shown in the figure.

Incidentally, the desired floor reaction force central point Q_{123456} of the 123456th node, which is the root node, is identical to a desired total floor reaction force central point P.

In the present embodiment, the control system 50 is supposed to have a functional construction similar to that shown in the aforesaid Fig. 2.

In this case, the desired ground contact portion trajectory of a desired motion in a desired gait output by a gait generating device 100 in the present embodiment is constructed of the desired position/posture trajectory of each hand 62, the desired position/posture trajectory of each foot 58, and the desired position trajectory of each knee. In this case, the gait generating device 100 preferentially determines desired foot positions/postures (desired first and second ground contact portion positions/postures), desired hand positions/postures (desired fifth and sixth ground contact portion positions/postures), and desired knee positions (desired third and fourth ground contact portion positions) so that the feet 58, the hands 62, and the knees come in contact with the ground on a supposed floor surface as required for the gait, then determines a desired ZMP (desired total floor reaction force central point) in a supporting

polygon, which is a minimum convex polygon that includes the desired ground contact point (or a desired ground contact line or a desired ground contact surface) of each ground contact portion. Then, desired body
5 position/posture are determined by using a dynamic model of the robot 1 such that the desired foot positions/postures, the desired hand positions/postures, the desired knee positions, and the desired ZMP are satisfied.

10 If the head 63 can be moved with respect to the body 53, then the desired position/posture trajectory of the head 63 is included in a desired motion.

In the present embodiment, the arithmetic processing of the robot geometric model (inverse
15 kinematics calculator) 110 shown in Fig. 2 differs from that of the first to the third reference examples, as will be discussed later.

Further, in the present embodiment, a part of the processing technique of a hierarchical compliance
20 operation determiner 114 differs from the one explained in the first to the third reference examples described above. Fig. 62 shows the functional construction of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 of the present embodiment. In the processing of this functional
25 construction, major aspects that are different from the first to the third reference examples will be explained. A compensating total floor reaction force moment

distributor 114a determines and outputs not only the node compensating floor reaction force moments of the intermediate nodes and the root node, but also a node compensating floor reaction force moment Mn_dmd of an n-th node ($n=1,2,5,6$) of the leaf nodes, that is, the required floor reaction force moment (the required moment for restoring the posture) about a desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point ($n=1,2,5,6$). This is because, in the robot 51, moments can be generated about the desired floor reaction force central points of the feet 58 and the hands 62 as the ground contact portions. The technique for determining the node compensating floor reaction force moment Mn_dmd , including the required moments, may be the same technique explained in the first and the second reference examples described above. Further, in the present embodiment, the compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor 114a determines and outputs a corrected desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force moment $Mn_refmdfd(n=1,2,5,6)$ about a desired n-th ground contact portion floor reaction force central point ($n=1,2,5,6$), which is corrected by generating a node compensating floor reaction force moment about the desired floor reaction force central point of each corresponding node, together with a translational force component $Fn_refmdfd(n=1,2,3,4,5,6)$ of a corrected desired ground contact portion floor reaction force. These are used by a

deformation compensation amount calculator 114n to
calculate a deformation compensation amount.

A compensating angle determiner (the part enclosed
by the virtual line in Fig. 62) in the present embodiment
5 determines and outputs not only the compensating angles of
the intermediate nodes and the root node but also the node
compensating angle θ_n of an n-th node ($n=1,2,5,6$) among
the leaf nodes. A θ_n determiner that determines these n-
th node compensating angles θ_n ($n=1,2,5,6$) determines an n-
10 th node compensating angle θ_n ($n=1,2,5,6$) by the same
processing as that of the foot compensating angle
determiner disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent
Application Publication No. H10-277969. Incidentally, the
technique for determining the compensating angles
15 θ_n ($n=12,34,56,1234,123456$) of the intermediate nodes and
the root node other than the above nodes may be the same
as the technique explained in the first and the second
reference examples described above.

Further, a corrected desired ground contact portion
20 position/posture calculator 114g in the present embodiment
combines node rotational manipulations on the basis of
each n-th node compensating angle
 θ_n ($n=12,34,56,1234,123456$) by the technique explained in
the first and the second reference examples described
25 above so as to correct a desired ground contact portion
position, and it further corrects the desired posture of
an n-th ground contact portion ($n=1,2,5,6$) on the basis of

the n-th node compensating angle θ_n ($n=1,2,5,6$), thereby determining the corrected desired ground contact portion position/posture of each ground contact portion.

Further, according to the present embodiment, a floor configuration estimator 130 determines an estimated n-th floor height error Z_{fn_estm} ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6$) by the same technique as the technique explained in the aforesaid third reference example and also estimates a ground contact portion floor inclination error of an n-th ground contact portion θ_{fn} ($n=1,2,5,6$). The estimation of the ground contact portion floor inclination error θ_{fn} is performed by the same processing as the processing for estimating foot floor inclinations by the floor configuration estimator disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-277969.

The processing techniques of the functional construction of the hierarchical compliance operation determiner 114 of the present embodiment other than the ones described above are the same as that in the third reference example.

Except for the different aspects explained above, the arithmetic processing of the control system 50 in the present embodiment is the same as that in the first to the third reference examples.

Next, the processing of the aforesaid robot geometric model 110 in the present embodiment will be explained in detail.

In the robot 51 of the present embodiment, the number of the degrees of freedom of the joints from the body 53 to the knees is limited to three (only 3 degrees of freedom in the hip joints 55); therefore, it is impossible to change only the difference in height between the right and left knees while strictly maintaining body position/posture, foot position/posture, the horizontal positions of the right and left knees, and the sum of the heights of the right and left knees at their desired values. In other words, if an attempt is made to forcibly change only the height difference between the right and left knees, then twist or slippage would inconveniently take place between ground contact portions (namely, the knees and the feet) and a floor.

Similarly, it is impossible to change only the difference in height between the right and left feet while strictly maintaining the body position/posture, the positions of both knees, the horizontal positions of both feet, and the sum of the heights of the right and left feet at their desired values. In other words, if an attempt is made to forcibly change only the height difference between the right and left feet, then a twist or a slippage would inconveniently take place between ground contact portions (namely, the knees and the feet) and a floor.

Similarly, it is impossible to change only the sum of the heights of the right and left knees while strictly

maintaining the body position/posture, foot
positions/postures, the horizontal positions of the right
and left knees, and the height difference between the
right and left knees at their desired values. In other
5 words, if an attempt is made to forcibly change only the
sum of the heights of the right and left knees, then the
body position would be dislocated from a desired position
even though twist or slippage may not take place between
ground contact portions (namely, the knees and the feet)
10 and a floor. As a result, the position of the total
center-of-gravity of the robot 51 and an inertial force
will deviate from desired values, leading to deteriorated
stability of the robot 51.

This means that, in any case, the corrected desired
15 ground contact portion position/posture with deformation
compensation and desired body position/posture that have
been determined by the hierarchical compliance operation
determiner 114 cannot be strictly satisfied at the same
time, so that twist or slippage takes place between the
20 feet 58 or the knees of the robot 51 and the floor or the
position of the overall center-of-gravity of the robot 51
and an inertial force deviate from their desired values,
possibly resulting in deterioration of the stability of
the robot 51 when the robot 51 is in the posture state
25 shown in Fig. 58 and Fig. 59. Incidentally, the hands 62
among the ground contact portions have a degree of freedom
of 6 degrees or more of freedom with respect to the body

53; therefore, slippage such as twist will not occur
between the hands 62 and the floor unless the robot 51 is
made to take a posture in which it comes in contact with
the floor at portions other than the hands 62 of the arms
5 54.

Hence, in the present embodiment, the posture or
the position/posture of the body 53 are corrected on the
basis mainly of a change in the height difference between
the right and left knees while restraining, as much as
10 possible, the occurrence of twist or slippage between the
knees and the feet 58 among the ground contact portions of
the robot 51 and the floor and also restraining, as much
as possible, a change in the position of the center-of-
gravity (especially the horizontal position) of the body
15 53.

Figs. 63(a) and (b) show examples of the operations
for correcting the posture of the body 53. Fig. 63(c)
will be discussed later. These Figs. 63(a), (b), and (c)
omit showing the arms 54 and the head 63.

20 One of the operations for correcting the posture of
the body 53 is the operation in which, from the state
wherein the robot 51 is kneeling as shown in Fig. 63(a),
the body 53 is rotated (rotated as indicated by an arrow
y1) by using, as the axis of rotation, the trunk axis
25 passing approximately the center-of-gravity G of the body
53, as shown in Fig. 63(b), on the basis of a change in
the height difference between the right and left knees

caused by compliance control.

Further, in the posture in which the robot 51 is kneeling, as shown in Fig. 63, a change in the height difference between the right and left feet 58 and 58 causes the height difference between the right and left knees to change by about half the change in the height difference between the right and left feet 58 and 58. Hence, the same operation as that of correcting the posture of the body 53 on the basis of a change in the height difference between the right and left knees is performed by only a half amount, as compared with the case of a change in the height difference between the right and left feet, on the basis of a change in the height difference between the right and left feet 58 and 58 caused by the compliance control.

Further, when correcting the posture of the body 53 as described above, the position and the posture of the body 53 are corrected on the basis of a change in the sum of the heights of the right and left knees caused by the compliance control while restraining the occurrence of twist or slippage between ground contact portions (the knees and the feet 58) and the floor as much as possible, and also restraining, as much as possible, a change in the position (especially the horizontal position) of the center-of-gravity G of the body 53 or in the inclination of a segment connecting the center-of-gravity G and a total floor reaction force central point.

Fig. 64 visually shows an operation for correcting the position and the posture of the body 53 on the basis of changes in the sum of the heights of the right and left knees. Specifically, from the posture of the robot 51 indicated by the dashed lines, as both knees are operated to move down by the compliance control to the posture of the robot 51 indicated by the solid lines, the bottom end portion (or the waist) of the body 53 is shifted forward, as indicated by an arrow y_3 , and the inclination of the body 53 is shifted backward (in the direction in which the body 53 rises), as indicated by an arrow y_2 . In other words, the body 53 is tilted backward while maintaining the position of the center-of-gravity G of the body 53 (or the position of a predetermined representative point of the body 53), especially the horizontal position thereof. Alternatively, the body 53 is tilted backward while maintaining the inclination of the segment connecting the center-of-gravity G and the desired total floor reaction force central point P . Further, as an operation for raising both knees is performed by the compliance control, the bottom end portion (or the waist) of the body 53 is shifted backward, inversely from the above, to shift the inclination of the body toward the front. In other words, the body 53 is tilted forward while maintaining the position of the center-of-gravity G of the body (or the position of the predetermined representative point of the body), especially its horizontal position. Alternatively,

the body 53 is tilted backward while maintaining the inclination of the segment connecting the center-of-gravity G and the desired total floor reaction force central point P. Incidentally, Q1" and Q3" in Fig. 64 denote the desired floor reaction force central point of the foot 58 and the desired floor reaction force central point of the knee, respectively, after the position/posture of the body 53 have been corrected as described above. In this example, Q1" is identical to a desired floor reaction force central point Q1 of the foot 58 before the correction.

The above is the overview of the operation for correcting the posture and the position of the body 53.

The processing function of the robot geometric model (inverse kinematics calculator) 110 in the present embodiment is shown by the block diagram of Fig. 65.

In the inverse kinematics calculator 110, first, based on corrected desired n-th ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation ($n=1,2,\dots,6$) and the desired ground contact portion positions/postures of the feet 58 and the knees determined by the gait generating device 100, the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees $Z_{kneedi\text{ff}m\text{d}f\text{d}}$ and the correction amount of the sum of the heights of the right and left knees $Z_{kneesum\text{m}d\text{f}d}$ for the desired positions of the right and left knees determined by the gait generating device 100, and the correction

amount of the height difference between the right and left feet 58 and 58 Zfootdiffmdfd for the desired positions of the right and left feet determined by the gait generating device 100 are determined.

Specifically, the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees $Z_{kneediffmdfd}$, the correction amount of the sum of the heights of the right and left knees $Z_{kneesummdfd}$, and the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left feet $Z_{footdiffmdfd}$ are determined according to the following expressions 47, 48, and 49.

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Zkneediffmdfd
= Corrected desired fourth ground contact portion position
15 with deformation compensation
- Desired fourth ground contact portion position
- Corrected desired third ground contact portion position
with deformation compensation
+ Desired third ground contact portion position
20 ... Expression 47

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Zkneesummdfd
= Corrected desired fourth ground contact portion position
with deformation compensation
25 - Desired fourth ground contact portion position
+ Corrected desired third ground contact portion position
with deformation compensation

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- Desired third ground contact portion position

... Expression 48

Zfootdiffmdfd

5 = Corrected desired second ground contact portion position
with deformation compensation

- Desired second ground contact portion position

- Corrected desired first ground contact portion position
with deformation compensation

10 + Desired first ground contact portion position

... Expression 49

More precisely, "portion position" in expressions
47 to 49 is the height component (the component in the
15 vertical direction) of the "portion position."

Subsequently, the body position/posture correction
amount are determined on the basis of the correction
amount of the height difference between the right and left
knees Zkneediffmdfd, the correction amount of the sum of
20 the heights of the right and left knees Zkneesummdfd, and
the correction amount of the height difference between the
right and left feet Zfootdiffmdfd.

The body position/posture correction amount is
composed of a body position correction amount for knee
25 height difference Xbkneediffmdfd, a body posture
correction amount for knee height difference
0bkneediffmdfd, a body position correction amount for knee

height sum $X_{bkneesummdfd}$, a body posture correction amount for knee height sum $\theta_{bkneesummdfd}$, a body position correction amount for foot height difference $X_{bfootdiffmdfd}$, and a body posture correction amount for foot height difference $\theta_{bfootdiffmdfd}$. Specifically, these values are determined as follows.

First, based on the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees $Z_{kneediffmdfd}$, the body position correction amount for knee height difference $X_{bkneediffmdfd}$ and the body posture correction amount for knee height difference $\theta_{bkneediffmdfd}$ for preventing the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees $Z_{kneediffmdfd}$ from causing twist or slippage between ground contact portions (the knees and the feet 58) and a floor are determined by geometric calculation on the basis of the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees $Z_{kneediffmdfd}$ and the desired posture (desired motion) of the robot 51 at that instant (current time).

To be more specific, for example, $X_{bkneediffmdfd}$ and $\theta_{bkneediffmdfd}$ are determined according to the following expression 50. $K_{xkneediff}$ and $K_{thkneediff}$ denote proportional coefficients based on desired postures of the robot 51.

$$\begin{aligned} X_{bkneediffmdfd} &= K_{xkneediff} * Z_{kneediffmdfd} \\ \theta_{bkneediffmdfd} &= K_{thkneediff} * Z_{kneediffmdfd} \end{aligned}$$

... Expression 50

As an alternative, the relationship between the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees (or a 34th node compensating angle θ_{34}) and the correction amounts of the body position/posture may be determined beforehand for some representative desired postures of the robot 51, and it may be stored as a map or function so as to determine $X_{bkneediffmdfd}$ and $\theta_{bkneediffmdfd}$ on the basis of the map or function and the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees $Z_{kneediffmdfd}$. Incidentally, in the present embodiment, the body posture is corrected by rotating the body 53 about its trunk axis on the basis of the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees, so that the body position correction amount for knee height difference $X_{bkneediffmdfd}$ may be zero.

Next, in the same manner as described above, based on the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left feet 58 and 58 $Z_{footdiffmdfd}$, the body position correction amount for foot height difference $X_{bfootdiffmdfd}$ and the body posture correction amount for foot height difference $\theta_{bfootdiffmdfd}$ for preventing the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left feet 58 and 58 $Z_{footdiffmdfd}$ from causing a twist or slippage between ground contact portions (the

knees and the feet 58) and a floor are determined by geometric calculation on the basis of the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left feet $Z_{\text{footdiffmddf}}$ and the desired posture (desired motion) of the robot 51 at that instant (current time).

To be more specific, for example, $X_{\text{footdiffmddf}}$ and $\theta_{\text{footdiffmddf}}$ are determined according to the following expression 51. K_{footdiff} and $K_{\text{thfootdiff}}$ denote proportional coefficients based on desired postures of the robot 51. As described above, the influence of the height difference of the feet 58 is about half the influence of the height difference of the knees, so that K_{footdiff} and $K_{\text{thfootdiff}}$ are one half of $K_{\text{xkneediff}}$ and $K_{\text{thkneediff}}$.

$$X_{\text{footdiffmddf}} = K_{\text{footdiff}} * Z_{\text{footdiffmddf}}$$
$$\theta_{\text{footdiffmddf}} = K_{\text{thfootdiff}} * Z_{\text{footdiffmddf}}$$

... Expression 51

Incidentally, in the present embodiment, the body posture is corrected by rotating the body 53 about its trunk axis on the basis of the correction amount of the height difference between the right and left feet 58 and 58, so that the body position correction amount for foot height difference $X_{\text{footdiffmddf}}$ may be zero.

Subsequently, in the same manner as described above, based on the correction amount of the sum of the heights

of the right and left knees $Z_{summdfd}$, the body position correction amount for knee height sum $X_{summdfd}$ and the body posture correction amount for knee height sum $\theta_{summdfd}$ for preventing the correction amount of the sum of the heights of the right and left knees $Z_{summdfd}$ from causing a twist or slippage between ground contact portions (the knees and the feet) and a floor are determined by geometric calculation on the basis of the correction amount of the sum of the heights of the right and left knees $Z_{summdfd}$ and the desired posture of the robot 51 at that instant (current time).

Alternatively, the relationship between the correction amount of the sum of the heights of the right and left knees and the correction amount of the body posture may be determined beforehand for some representative desired postures, and it may be stored as a map or function so as to determine $X_{summdfd}$ and $\theta_{summdfd}$ on the basis of the map or function and the correction amount of the sum of the heights of the right and left knees $Z_{summdfd}$.

Alternatively, the correction amounts of body position/posture may be determined as follows. The height difference between the right and left knees is converted into the 34th node compensating angle θ_{34} that causes the difference, the sum of the heights of the right and left knees is converted into the 1234th node compensating angle θ_{1234} , and the height difference between the right and

left foot is converted into the 12th node compensating angle θ_{12} that causes the difference. Then, based on these converted compensating angles, the body position/posture correction amounts may be determined by geometric calculation. Alternatively, the relationship between the converted compensating angles and body position/posture correction amounts may be determined beforehand for some representative desired postures of the robot 51, and it may be stored as a map or function so as to determine body position/posture correction amounts on the basis of the map or function and the converted compensating angles.

Subsequently, the desired body position/posture are moved (rotational movement and parallel movement) by the body position/posture correction amounts to determine desired body position/posture with twist correction. Specifically, the desired body position/posture are rotationally moved about a trunk axis (or a predetermined axis of rotation (the axis of rotation substantially in a vertical plane)) by the sum of the body posture correction amount for knee height difference and the body posture correction amount for foot height difference ($\theta_{bkneediffmdfd} + \theta_{bfootdiffmdfd}$), and this is further rotationally moved about a lateral axis by the body posture correction amount for the sum of knee heights $\theta_{bfootsummdfd}$, then this is further moved in parallel in the longitudinal direction of the robot 51 by the sum of

the body position correction amount for knee height difference, the body position correction amount for the sum of knee heights, and the body position correction amount for foot height difference ($X_{bkneediffmdfd} +$
5 $X_{bkneesummdfd} + X_{bfootdiffmdfd}$) thereby to determine desired body position/posture with twist correction.

Subsequently, based on the desired body position/posture with twist correction and desired n-th ground contact portion position/posture with deformation
10 compensation ($n=1,2,\dots,6$), a joint displacement command of the robot 51 is determined.

Thus, the processing of the inverse kinematics calculator 110 is carried out as described above.

In other words, according to the first embodiment,
15 if the degree of freedom is geometrically insufficient for the operation of correcting the ground contact portion positions/postures of the robot 51, then the hierarchical compliance operation corrects not only the desired ground contact portion positions/postures but also the desired
20 body positions/postures such that a point of the body position (the representative point of the body) or the point (e.g., the overall center-of-gravity) of the weighted average position of a plurality of portions, including the body (the weight in this case is desirably
25 the mass ratio of each portion), especially the horizontal position of the point, is maintained, or the angle of a line that connects the point and a desired total floor

reaction force central point (desired ZMP) is maintained at the angle in a desired gait.

Further, in other words, the first embodiment is provided with a means that gives priority to the controllability of an actual floor reaction force moment generated about a desired total floor reaction force central point (desired ZMP) and determines at least one of a compensating height and a compensating angle as the manipulated variable of the relative height or the inclination angle of a predetermined ground contact portion A (a knee in this case) or the manipulated variable of the relative height or the inclination angle of a node having a predetermined ground contact portion A as a descendant node in order to enhance the stability of the entire posture control of the robot 51, a means for determining the correction amount of at least one of the posture and the position of the body while maintaining the position of the body or the aforesaid weighted average position of a plurality of portions, including the body, at approximately the position in a desired gait on the basis of at least one of the aforesaid compensating height and compensating angle, and an inverse kinematics calculating means for determining a joint displacement on the basis of at least one of the position and the posture of a predetermined ground contact portion B (foot in this case) except for the aforesaid predetermined ground contact portion A and the body position/posture corrected

by the aforesaid correction amount.

Incidentally, in the first embodiment, instead of rotating a body posture about the trunk axis of the body 53 of the robot 51, the body 53 may be rotated using the vertical axis as the axis of rotation and using the waist (the bottom end portion of the body 53) of the robot 51 as the center, as shown in Fig. 64(c). In this case, however, the deviation of the center-of-gravity G of the body 53 in the lateral direction would increase. Alternatively, the body posture may be rotated using an axis located midway between the trunk axis of the body 53 and the vertical axis as the axis of rotation. Alternatively, the position and the posture of the body 53 may be simultaneously corrected on the basis of the correction amount of the height difference between the two knees or the correction amount of the height difference between both feet 58 and 58. Further, instead of maintaining the position of the center-of-gravity G of the body 53 unchanged, the position/posture of the body 53 may be corrected such that the position of the overall center-of-gravity of the robot 51 or the position of the representative point of the body 53 remains unchanged.

In any case, if the degree of freedom is geometrically insufficient in the operation for correcting the position/posture of a ground contact portion of the robot 51 by the compliance operation or the like, at least one of the position and the posture of the body 53 may be

corrected from the position/posture of a desired gait so as to restrain the occurrence of a slippage, such as a twist, of a ground contact portion. Further, instead of correcting at least one of the position and the posture of the body 53, at least one of the position and the posture of a predetermined portion other than the body 53 may be corrected.

[Second Embodiment]

An explanation will now be given about a control system for a mobile robot according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

In the first embodiment, the position/posture of the body have been corrected in order to prevent a slippage, such as a twist, of a ground contact portion and to minimize the deviations of the position of the overall center-of-gravity of the robot 51 and an inertial force. In the present embodiment (the second embodiment), a slippage, such as a twist, of a ground contact portion has been allowed to a certain extent, and joint displacements (the displacements of a hip joint 55 and a knee joint 56) or the position/posture of a ground contact portion have been preferentially corrected so as to restrain the deviations of the position of the overall center-of-gravity of the robot 51 and an inertial force.

More specifically, in the present embodiment, an inverse kinematics calculator 110 carries out the

processing shown by the block diagram of Fig. 66 in place of the processing of Fig. 65 explained in the first embodiment. Except for this difference, the present embodiment is the same as the first embodiment.

5 The inverse kinematics calculator 110 of the present embodiment will be explained with reference to Fig. 66. First, based on corrected desired n-th ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation ($n=1,2,\dots,6$) (specifically, the position out of the position/posture) and desired n-th ground contact portion position/posture ($n=1,2,\dots,6$) (specifically, the position out of the position/posture), a correction amount of the height difference between the right and left knees $Z_{kneediffmddf}$, a correction amount of the sum of the heights of the right and left knees $Z_{kneesummdfd}$, and a correction amount of the height difference between the right and left feet $Z_{footdiffmddf}$ are determined according to the aforesaid expression 47, expression 48, and expression 49, and further, the height difference between the right and left knees is converted into a 34th node compensating angle θ_{34} that causes the difference. Similarly, the sum of the heights of the right and left knees is converted into a 1234th node compensating angle θ_{1234} that causes the sum, and the height difference between the right and left feet is converted into a 12th node compensating angle θ_{12} that causes the difference.

Next, based on the converted node compensating

angles, joint displacement correction amounts are determined. This is performed as follows. First, a case is assumed where a joint displacement is corrected while fixing the body position/posture of a desired gait and retaining the angle of a segment that connects a desired total floor reaction force central point (a desired 123456th node floor reaction force central point (point P in Fig. 61)) and the overall center-of-gravity of the robot 51 (or the center-of-gravity of the body or the centers of gravity of a plurality of portions, including the body 53) unchanged. In this case, a j-th joint displacement correction amount ($j=1,2,\dots,\text{total number of joints}$) for the inclination angle (compensating angle) of an n-th node ($n=12,34,1234$) corresponding to each of ground contact portions (a knee and a foot 58) to become a unit perturbation amount is determined, and this is defined as a sensitivity Ln_j of the j-th joint displacement relative to the n-th node compensating angle.

More generally, when a joint displacement of a desired gait has been corrected, the j-th joint displacement correction amount ($j=1,2,\dots,\text{total number of joints}$) for the relative angle between the segment connecting a desired total floor reaction force central point (a desired 123456th node floor reaction force central point) and an overall center-of-gravity of the robot 51 (or the center-of-gravity of the body or the centers of gravity of a plurality of portions, including

the body 53) and the inclination angle of an n-th node (n=12,34,1234) corresponding to each of ground contact portions (a knee and the foot 58) to become a unit perturbation amount is determined, and this is defined as
5 a sensitivity L_n_j of the j-th joint displacement relative to the n-th node compensating angle.

Specifically, if $L_n_knee_r$ denotes the sensitivity of a right knee joint displacement relative to an n-th node compensating angle (n=12,34,1234), $L_n_knee_l$ denotes
10 the sensitivity of a left knee joint displacement relative to the n-th node compensating angle, $L_n_hip_r$ denotes the sensitivity of a right hip pitch joint displacement relative to the n-th node compensating angle, and $L_n_hip_l$ denotes the sensitivity of a left hip pitch joint
15 displacement relative to the n-th node compensating angle, then each sensitivity is set according to the following expression 52 in the kneeling posture of the robot 51 shown in Fig. 58 and Fig. 59.

20 $L_{1234_hip_r}=0, \quad L_{1234_hip_l}=0, \quad L_{1234_knee_r}=1,$
 $L_{1234_knee_l}=1, \quad L_{12_hip_r}=0, \quad L_{12_hip_l}=0$
 $L_{12_knee_r}=a_{12}, \quad L_{12_knee_l}=-a_{12}, \quad L_{34_hip_r}=a_{34}$
 $L_{34_hip_l}=-a_{34}, \quad L_{34_knee_r}=0, \quad L_{34_knee_l}=0$

... Expression 52

25 where a_{12} and a_{34} denote predetermined constants.

Subsequently, joint displacement correction amounts are determined according to expressions 53 to 56 given

below, where θ_{knee_r} denotes a right knee joint displacement correction amount, θ_{knee_l} denotes a left knee joint displacement correction amount, θ_{hip_r} denotes a right hip joint displacement correction amount (more specifically, the joint displacement correction amount in the pitch direction of the right hip joint), and θ_{hip_l} denotes a left hip joint displacement correction amount (more specifically, the joint displacement correction amount in the pitch direction of the right hip joint).

10

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{knee_r} = & L1234_knee_r * \theta_{1234} + L12_knee_r * \theta_{12} \\ & + L34_knee_r * \theta_{34}\end{aligned}$$

... Expression 53

15

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{knee_l} = & L1234_knee_l * \theta_{1234} + L12_knee_l * \theta_{12} \\ & + L34_knee_l * \theta_{34}\end{aligned}$$

... Expression 54

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{hip_r} = & L1234_hip_r * \theta_{1234} + L12_hip_r * \theta_{12} \\ & + L34_hip_r * \theta_{34}\end{aligned}$$

... Expression 55

20

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{hip_l} = & L1234_hip_l * \theta_{1234} + L12_hip_l * \theta_{12} \\ & + L34_hip_l * \theta_{34}\end{aligned}$$

... Expression 56

Other joint displacement correction amounts are determined in the same manner; however, they will be omitted to simplify the explanation.

For the 1234th compensating angle θ_{1234} , the

displacements (angles) of both knee joints 56 are corrected by the same amount as θ_{1234} , as shown in Fig. 67. Further, for the 12th compensating angle θ_{12} , the displacement (angle) of the right knee joint 56 is

5 corrected in proportion to θ_{12} and also the displacement (angle) of the left knee joint 56 is corrected at the same time by the amount obtained by multiplying the correction amount of the displacement of the right knee joint 56 by -

1. In other words, the displacement (angle) of the right

10 knee joint 56 is corrected, as shown in Fig. 67, and the displacement (angle) of the left knee joint 56 is corrected in reverse therefrom. Further, for the 34th compensating angle θ_{34} , the displacement (angle) of the right hip joint 55 in the pitch direction is corrected in

15 proportion to θ_{34} and also the displacement (angle) of the left hip joint 55 in the pitch direction is corrected at the same time by the amount obtained by multiplying the correction amount of the displacement of the right hip joint 55 in the pitch direction by -1. In other words,

20 the displacement (angle) of the right hip joint 55 in the pitch direction is corrected, as shown in Fig. 68, and the displacement (angle) of the left hip joint 55 in the pitch direction is corrected in reverse therefrom. Incidentally, Q_1 and Q_1'' in Fig. 67 denote a desired floor reaction

25 force central point of the foot 58 before the corrections of the joint displacements described above and a desired floor reaction force central point of the foot 58 after

the corrections, respectively. Further, Q3 and Q3" in Fig. 68 denote a desired floor reaction force central point of a knee before the corrections of the joint displacements described above and a desired floor reaction force central point of the knee after the corrections, respectively.

By correcting joint displacements as described above, the relative angle between the segment connecting a desired total floor reaction force central point (a desired 123456th node floor reaction force central point) and the overall center-of-gravity of the robot 51 (or the center-of-gravity of the body or the center-of-gravity of a plurality of portions, including the body 53) and the inclination angle of an n-th node ($n=12,34,1234$) corresponding to ground contact portions (a knee and the foot 58) is changed by the aforesaid converted node compensating angle θ_{12} , θ_{23} , or θ_{1234} . Thus, an actual floor reaction force is faithfully controlled, leading to improved posture stability and ground contact properties of the robot 51.

Instead of directly correcting joint displacement commands (desired joint displacements) as described above, preferentially corrected desired ground contact portion positions/postures, which are the corrected desired positions/postures of the ground contact portions (specifically, the feet 58 and the hands 62) whose positions/postures are to be preferentially corrected to cause approximately the same desired joint displacements,

may be determined, and then, based on the determined preferentially corrected desired ground contact portion positions/postures, joint displacement commands may be determined by inverse kinematics calculation.

5 Because of insufficient degrees of freedom of joints, it is impossible to determine joint displacements by the inverse kinematics calculation such that desired body position/posture and all corrected desired ground contact portion positions/postures are satisfied;
10 therefore, when carrying out the inverse kinematics calculation, some corrected desired ground contact portion positions/postures out of all corrected desired ground contact portion positions/postures are used. The some corrected desired ground contact portion
15 positions/postures are referred to as the aforesaid preferentially corrected desired ground contact portion positions/postures.

 For example, in the situation shown in Fig. 67, for the 1234th node compensating angle θ_{1234} , the position
20 obtained by rotationally moving a desired foot position about a knee may be determined as the preferentially corrected desired foot position.

 Incidentally, in the first embodiment and the second embodiment, as an example, the compliance operation
25 in the situation wherein the robot 51 is kneeling has been explained. The following will describe the adaptation to a compliance operation in a situation wherein the robot is

sitting on a chair. This will be explained as a third embodiment.

[Third Embodiment]

5 Fig. 70 shows the construction of an essential section of a robot according to the present embodiment. This robot 71 is provided with floor reaction force sensors 73 and 73 for detecting floor reaction forces (load sensors, such as six-axis force sensors) at the
10 right and left, respectively, of the base end surface of buttocks 72. Instead of providing the floor reaction force sensors 73 and 73 at the right and left, a single floor reaction force sensor that detects the resultant force of the forces applied to the right and left of the
15 base end surface of the buttocks 72 may be provided.

 In this case, the outsides of the floor reaction force sensors 73 and 73 are covered with a soft member (elastic member) 74, such as a sponge, as illustrated. To enhance the accuracy of the compliance control in the
20 ground contact portions of the buttocks 72, it is desirable to shape the surface (ground contact surface) of the soft member (elastic member) 74 into a round convex surface in addition to covering them with the soft member. It is desirable to provide the member 74 such that the
25 horizontal positions of the detection positions of the floor reaction force sensors 73 and 73 (the positions of the sensor main bodies) are aligned with the horizontal

position of the apex of the convex surface of the
aforesaid member 74 especially when the robot 71 is
sitting on a chair through the intermediary of its
buttocks 72. This arrangement reduces the nonlinearity of
5 the relationship between a corrective operation of the
position/posture of a ground contact portion of the robot
71 and a floor reaction force, resulting in better control
performance of the compliance control of the robot 71.

In the robot 71, legs (link mechanisms) 52 and 55
10 are provided extendedly from the right and left sides of
the buttocks 72. The structures of the legs 55 and 55,
including their joints, are the same as those of, for
example, the aforesaid first embodiment. Hence, the same
reference marks as those related to the legs 5 and 55 in
15 the first embodiment will be used, and the explanations
thereof will be omitted. However, in the present
embodiment, the knees of the legs 55 may not be provided
with floor reaction force sensors.

Further, as shown in the figure, a trunk (body) 77,
20 which is the base body of the robot 71, is provided on the
upper side of the buttocks 72, and arms 79 and 79 are
provided extendedly from both sides of the upper portion
of the trunk 77 through the intermediary of shoulder
joints 78 and 78. Incidentally, the arms 79 may have the
25 same structure as that in the robot 51 of the aforesaid
second embodiment. Further, the trunk 77 is connected
with the buttocks 72 through the intermediary of a joint

80. In this case, the joint 80 is constructed of a trunk turning joint 80a for turning the trunk 77 in the yaw direction relative to the buttocks 72, and a trunk flexing joint 80b for tilting the trunk 77 in the longitudinal and lateral directions relative to the buttocks 72. The joints provided in the robot 71 as described above are operated by actuators, which are not shown. Although not shown, a control system 50, which is similar to that in the aforesaid first embodiment and the like, is installed in the buttocks 72 or the trunk 77. Moreover, the distal portions of the legs 55 and the arms 79 are provided with external force detecting means, such as six-axis force sensors.

In the present embodiment, the hierarchical structure may be set, as shown in Fig. 70, for the robot 71 sitting on a chair or the like through the intermediary of the buttocks 72. More specifically, a right foot 58, a left foot 58, the right portion of the base end surface of the buttocks 72 (the portion to which a right floor reaction force sensor 73 is attached), and the left portion of the base end surface of the buttocks 72 (the portion to which a left floor reaction force sensor 73 is attached) as ground contact portions are associated with a first node, a second node, a third node, and a fourth node, respectively, which are leaf nodes. Further, a 12th node having the first node and the second node as child nodes and a 34th node having the third node and a fourth node as

child nodes have been set as intermediate nodes, and a
1234th node having the 12th node and the 34th node as
child nodes has been set as a root node. Further,
according to the policy similar to that in the aforesaid
5 first embodiment and the like, the nodes are associated
with desired floor reaction force central points
 $Q_n (n=1,2,3,4,12,34,1234)$, as illustrated. Incidentally, a
desired floor reaction force central point Q_{1234} of the
1234th node, which is the root node, is identical to a
10 desired total floor reaction force central point P .

In the present embodiment, the control system 50 is
supposed to have a functional construction similar to that
shown in the aforesaid Fig. 2.

In this case, a desired ground contact portion
15 trajectory of a desired motion in a desired gait output by
a gait generating device 100 in the present embodiment is
constructed of the desired position/posture trajectory of
each foot 58 and the desired position/posture trajectory
of the buttocks 72. The body position/posture trajectory
20 of the desired motion means the position/posture
trajectory of the trunk 77. Incidentally, the desired
motion includes the position/posture trajectory of the
distal portion of each arm 79. Further, the desired total
floor reaction force central point P is on a virtual plane
25 in the air rather than on an actual floor surface.

In the present embodiment, a hierarchical
compliance operation determiner 114 has the same

functional components as those of the aforesaid second embodiment (refer to Fig. 62). However, in the present embodiment, a compensating total floor reaction force moment distributor determines and outputs the node compensating floor reaction force moments of the intermediate nodes and the root node in the hierarchical structure shown in Fig. 70 and the node compensating floor reaction force moments of the leaf nodes corresponding to the feet 58. Further, a compensating angle determiner determines and outputs the node compensating angles of the intermediate nodes and the root node in the hierarchical structure shown in Fig. 70 and the node compensating angles of the leaf nodes corresponding to the feet 58. In this case, the basic techniques for determining these node compensating floor reaction force moments and node compensating angles may be the same as the techniques explained in the first to the third reference examples or the first embodiment. Further, a floor configuration estimator determines estimated n-th floor height errors $Z_{fn_estm}(n=1,2,3,4)$ by the same technique as the technique explained in the aforesaid third embodiment, as in the case of the aforesaid first embodiment, and also estimates ground contact portion floor inclination errors $\theta_{fn}(n=1,2)$ of the feet 58.

Further, a robot geometric model (inverse kinematics calculator), which is a functional component of the control system 50, corrects the positions/postures of

the ground contact portions of the buttocks 72 and the feet 58 (ground contact portions) to restrain the occurrence of a slippage, such as a twist, of the ground contact portions and also corrects the position/posture of the body (trunk) 77 basically on the basis of the corrected desired ground contact portion positions/postures with deformation compensation and the desired body position/posture mentioned above by the same technique as that in the aforesaid first embodiment.

The processing of the control system 50 other than that explained above may be the same as that of the aforesaid second embodiment.

Several modifications related to the embodiments explained above will now be explained.

An actual node floor reaction force that cannot be directly detected by a floor reaction force sensor may be estimated by an observer by using another actual ground contact portion floor reaction force directly detected by a floor reaction force sensor, a detected value of an acceleration sensor, a detected value of a clinometer or the like, or it may be estimated by a simplified algebraic relationship. For instance, the hierarchical compliance operation is a rotational compliance operation in which a ground contact portion is rotated about a desired total floor reaction force central point; therefore, even when the compliance operation is performed, the vertical acceleration of the overall center-of-gravity of the robot

(or an acceleration component in the direction of a segment that connects a desired total floor reaction force central point and the overall center-of-gravity) substantially agrees with the vertical acceleration of the overall center-of-gravity in a desired gait (desired motion) of the robot (or an acceleration component in the direction of a segment that connects a desired total floor reaction force central point and the overall center-of-gravity). Hence, the sum of all actual ground contact portion floor reaction force vertical components substantially agrees with the value obtained by multiplying the sum of the vertical acceleration of the overall center-of-gravity in the desired gait (desired motion) of the robot and the gravitational acceleration by the total mass of the robot.

Thus, if an actual n-th node floor reaction force cannot be directly detected, then first, the sum (hereinafter referred to as the actual non-n-th node floor reaction force) of the actual floor reaction forces (actual ground contact portion floor reaction forces) of all leaf nodes that do not have an n-th node as their ancestor node and that are not the n-th node itself is determined.

Next, an estimated n-th node floor reaction force, which is an estimated value of an actual n-th node floor reaction force, is determined according to the following expression 57.

Estimated n-th node floor reaction force
= (Overall center-of-gravity acceleration of desired
gait + Gravitational acceleration) * Total mass
- Actual non-n-th node floor reaction force ...

5 Expression 57

If the body or the like is provided with an
acceleration sensor, then the center-of-gravity
acceleration of the entire robot (hereinafter referred to
10 as an estimated overall center-of-gravity acceleration)
may be estimated on the basis of a detected value of the
acceleration sensor and at least one of a desired gait and
an actual joint displacement, and an estimated n-th node
floor reaction force, which is the estimated value of an
15 actual n-th node floor reaction force, may be determined
according to the following expression 58.

Estimated n-th node floor reaction force
= (Estimated overall center-of-gravity acceleration +
20 Gravitational acceleration) * Total mass
- Actual non-n-th node floor reaction forces ...

Expression 58

For example, in the aforesaid sixth embodiment, if
25 no floor reaction force sensors for detecting knee floor
reaction forces are provided or floor reaction force
sensors for detecting knee floor reaction forces fail,

then an estimated 34th node floor reaction force is determined according to the following expression 59.

Estimated 34th node floor reaction force

5 = (Overall center-of-gravity acceleration of desired gait
 + Center-of-gravity acceleration) * Total mass
 - Actual non-34th node floor reaction forces

 = Overall center-of-gravity acceleration of desired gait *
 Total mass

10 - (Actual 12th node floor reaction force + Actual
 56th node floor reaction force) ... Expression 59

 Further, the estimated 34th node floor reaction
 force is used in place of an actual 34th node floor
15 reaction force to determine the 1234th node compensating
 angle θ_{1234} by the compliance operation processing, and an
 estimated 1234th node relative floor height error
 $Z_{1234rel_estm}$ is also estimated by floor configuration
 estimation processing.

20 In determining the 34th node compensating angle θ_{34} ,
 it is assumed that the floor is as expected, and an
 estimated third node floor reaction force, which is the
 estimated value of an actual third node floor reaction
 force, and an estimated fourth node floor reaction force,
25 which is the estimated value of an actual fourth node
 floor reaction force, are determined on the basis of the
 corrected desired third ground contact portion

position/posture with deformation compensation, the corrected desired fourth ground contact portion position/posture with deformation compensation, and an estimated 34th node floor reaction force.

5 Further, the estimated third node floor reaction force and the estimated fourth node floor reaction force are used in place of an actual third node floor reaction force and an actual fourth node floor reaction force to determine the 34th node compensating angle θ_{34} by the
10 compliance operation processing.

 Instead of determining the corrected desired node floor reaction force moment about a desired node floor reaction force central point on the basis of the required moment for restoring the posture of the robot
15 (compensating total floor reaction force moment) so as to be equivalent to adding the required moment for restoration as described above, a corrected desired node floor reaction force central point obtained by correcting a desired node floor reaction force central point may be
20 determined on the basis of the required moment for restoration (compensating total floor reaction force moment). In this case, a desired node floor reaction force moment about a desired node floor reaction force central point is not corrected, so that it remains to be
25 zero.

 Further, in order to compensate for a component that could not be controlled within an n-th node floor

reaction force (an expected or detected control error component), the desired floor reaction force of the parent node of the n-th node may be corrected on the basis of the component. More specifically, the value of the difference
5 between an actual n-th node floor reaction force and a desired n-th node floor reaction force in the last control cycle or the value obtained by passing the aforesaid difference through a low-pass filter may be added to the desired floor reaction force of the n-th node.

10 In the processing of estimating a floor configuration, a tree structure that is different from the tree structure for the compliance control may be set. The tree structure may have two layers composed of a root node and leaf nodes. Further, the weights of nodes may be set
15 to be different from those for the compliance control. A node may be set to any weight as long as the weight of the node is zero in a period during which a node floor reaction force is zero (a period during which all ground contact portions belonging to the node or the ground
20 contact portion corresponding to the node move or moves in the air).

Further, in the processing of estimating a floor configuration, each corrected node weight may be
25 determined on the basis of the aforesaid corrected desired node floor reaction force central point, and a vector having the determined corrected node weight as an element may be used as the weight for estimating the floor

configuration.

When determining an estimated relative floor height error of each point (each ground contact portion) in the processing of estimating a floor configuration, instead of using an actual floor reaction force, a mechanism compliance model, and the detected value of a posture sensor, a deformation amount detector for detecting the deformation amount of a compliance mechanism or the like may be provided so as to use a detected value of the deformation amount detector and a detected value of a posture sensor.

If a floor configuration is to be not only relatively estimated but globally estimated also (estimating a floor configuration on a global coordinate system), then the following may be carried out.

1) Estimating the global height of a floor in a case where the height of the body of a robot on the global coordinate system (hereinafter referred to as the global height) can be detected:

A detector that detects the global height of a predetermined portion, such as a body, of a robot (a body height estimator using an acceleration sensor (e.g., the estimator disclosed in PCT/JP03/05448 by the present applicant) or an external sensor, such as a visual sensor) is used. The value of an estimated floor height error on the global coordinate system is determined on the basis of

the estimated body global height, a joint displacement (an actual joint displacement or a desired joint displacement), the detected value of an actual body posture inclination, and the detected value of an actual floor reaction force.

5 Thus, the estimated floor height error of the root node will have a meaning as the weighted average value of the global estimated floor height error of every ground contact portion.

2) Estimating the global height of a floor in a situation
10 wherein the global height of the body is unknown:

If the global value of a certain estimated n-th floor height error (the error in the global coordinate system rather than the relative value in a group) is known, then the global values of the estimated floor height errors of
15 all points (ground contact portions) are determined on the basis of the above known global value and estimated relative floor height errors. If the global value of the estimated n-th floor height error at the start point of a travel of a robot is known, then the global value of the
20 floor height error of a ground contact portion that newly comes in contact with the ground will be sequentially determined as the robot continues to travel; therefore, a map of floor heights on a travel trajectory of the robot can be created by storing the above sequentially
25 determined global values.

Further, in the processing of estimating a floor configuration, each corrected node weight (obtained by

correcting the value of the weight of each node) may be determined on the basis of the aforesaid corrected desired node floor reaction force central point, and the determined corrected node weight may be used as the weight for defining an actual n-th node relative floor height or the like in estimating the floor configuration. Further, in estimating a floor configuration, the weight used to define the actual n-th node relative floor height or the like does not necessarily have to be the same as the aforesaid weight determined by the desired floor reaction force distributor.

Supplementally, the weight for defining the actual n-th node relative floor height or the like does not necessarily have to agree with the weight determined by the desired floor reaction force distributor; however, if they are to agree with each other (in this case, the desired floor reaction force central point of the root node will automatically agree with a desired total floor reaction force central point), then the influence of a floor configuration error can be canceled simply by adding an n-th node estimated floor inclination error to an n-th node compensating angle ($n=1,2,\dots$) for the compliance operation, thus making it possible to reduce the calculation volume for canceling the influence of the floor configuration error.

Furthermore, estimated floor configuration errors may be stored as the map information of a floor

configuration, and a desired gait may be generated on the basis of the stored map information of the floor configuration when a robot walks in the same place next time.

5 Incidentally, the arithmetic processing sequences in the block diagrams or the flowcharts showing the arithmetic processing functions in the embodiments described above may be subjected to equivalent modifications.

10

Industrial Applicability

 As described above, the present invention is useful as the one that makes it possible to provide a legged mobile robot that permits highly stable, smooth operations to be achieved by properly controlling floor reaction
15 forces even in a situation wherein a portion other than the distal portions of the legs of the legged mobile robot are brought into contact with the ground.